



CHINA MAIL

FIRST NEWSPAPER IN THE FAR EAST, ESTABLISHED 1845.

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GERMAN CHRISTMAS TRUCE OFFER IGNORED

SLIGHT NAZI AIR ACTIVITY

THERE WAS ONLY SLIGHT ENEMY AIR ACTIVITY DURING DAYLIGHT ON CHRISTMAS DAY OVER BRITAIN.

A Ministry of Home Security communique reports a few enemy aircraft over the Orkneys and off the Scottish coast.

One enemy plane was shot down in the Orkneys by fighters of the Fleet Air Arm cooperating with the R.A.F. Four of the crew were captured.—Reuter.

HITLER SPENDS CHRISTMAS WITH TROOPS

Hitler is spending Christmas among his troops in the west, as he did last year, according to the German radio quoted by Reuter.

Intensive Bombing Of Invasion Ports: Britain On Qui Vive

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

THE DISCLOSURE that Germany offered a three-day Christmas truce to Britain, covering Christmas Day and the two following days, was made by the Counsellor of the German Embassy in Washington on Christmas Eve.

The offer was made "through European channels" but Britain had not signified her acceptance.

The proposal was that there should be no air raids on Britain or the Greater Reich for three days.

"Does that mean," asked a Washington newspaper correspondent, "that there is no likelihood of an imminent invasion?"

"It would seem so," replied the German spokesman. Nevertheless, in England the absence of any attempt by German aircraft to bomb Britain's shores during Christmas Eve and the early hours of Christmas morning was not interpreted by high military authorities as justification for any relaxation of vigilance.

Invasion Ports Bombed

On the contrary, all shore defences are being manned in additional strength, and while reliefs were provided to enable all to enjoy a Christmas dinner, precautions were tightened up at all possible danger points.

At the same time, the Royal Air Force, which has recommenced systematic bombing of the so-called invasion ports, made a particularly severe attack on Christmas Eve on all points from Ostend to Boulogne, providing watchers on the English side of the Channel with a vivid Christmas Eve pyrotechnic display.—International News Service.

Christmas Parties In Air Raid Shelters

The Army forgot the serious business ahead for a brief spell to have its biggest "blowout" of the year on a turkey, pork and beef dinner washed down with beer while those who passed Christmas in London's Tubes spent the time in carol singing and gaiety in daily decorated underground shelters.

Boys and girls laid out stockings on Christmas Eve on station platforms where Santa Claus found and filled them. In one Tube shelter on Christmas night, girls in party frocks danced with their partners to music from a violin and piano after presents had been distributed to the children from a big Christmas tree.—Reuter.

TIDE AT LAST TURNING

General Smuts, Prime Minister of South Africa, has addressed a confident message to the South African forces.

"It has been a black year in human history," he said, "but thank God the tide is at last turning."

In the unprepared state of South Africa's defences, General Smuts continued, it had been a year of preparation.

These preparations were now completed and the time for action would come in the New Year.—Reuter.

he made a tour of inspection, and his car was frequently stopped by wildly cheering crowds. Thanking the people, Sir Andrew said: "I have done nothing to deserve all these cheers. You should cheer yourselves."—Reuter.

MUSSOLINI - THE SYNTHETIC CAESAR

"IT IS ONLY NATURAL to wonder whether Mr. Mussolini, despite his rather distinguished career, is not something of a four flusher himself — like Louis Napoleon, all gold braid, cock feathers and horse feathers," wrote William Randolph Hearst caustically in his newspapers yesterday.

"That chest seems just made for medals, and that chin! Well, we all know what happens when a man continually leads with his chin."

"You have got to have something else besides a chin and chest to be a real leader. You have got to have something other than hot air to be a real leader."

Editorials in the Scripps-Howard newspapers (says another New York message) declare: "We would hate to be in Mussolini's spot right now for Mr. Churchill has all the art which made the Roman citizens turn on the Brutus they had cheered only a few minutes before and cry 'Burn, fire, slay.'"

"This later-day synthetic Caesar may end up about as popular with the multitude as did Brutus after Anthony got rough with him in their oratorical contest."—Reuter.

MR. EDEN "BLAMED"

Mr. Eden was obviously behind Mr. Churchill's broadcast to Italy, declares the official "Diplomatische Correspondenz" in Berlin yesterday.

The Journal urges: "Apart from the identity of their philosophy, the unbreakable union of the German and Italian peoples, ordered by fate, consists in the clear realization that they will win a place in the sun."

Mr. Churchill, in desperation may twist and turn in all directions but the unalterable aim of the Axis remains to liberate their common living ways from British control.—Reuter.

JAPANESE STATESMAN PASSES

KURAEHI YUASA, FORMER JAPANESE LORD PRIVY SEAL, HAS DIED IN TOKYO. HE WAS 66 YEARS OLD.

His resignation last Spring in favour of Marquis Koichi Kido was regarded at the time as the removal of one of the pro-British influences from the inner circles of the Court.

Serving previously from 1936 as Minister of the Imperial Household, he had come to be considered as one of the most conservative advisers to the Throne, enjoying the broad confidence of the Emperor.—Reuter.

SEÑOR SUNER GOING TO TANGIER

The Spanish Foreign Minister, Señor Gerardo Suner, will visit Tangier shortly, according to a Tangier despatch to the Italian news agency yesterday.—Reuter.

RICE SHORTAGE

There is an acute shortage of rice in areas across the border. The price has increased to C\$1 per catty.



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Day And Night Artillery Duel In Bardia Battle

Early Fall Of Stronghold Not Likely

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

A STEADY ARTILLERY DUEL IS RAGING DAY AND NIGHT IN THE BATTLE FOR BE-SIEGED BARDIA, BUT IN CAIRO LAST NIGHT IT WAS INDICATED THAT EARLY CAPITULATION OF THE ITALIANS IS NOT EXPECTED.

Both from sea and land the Bardia defenders are being steadily pounded, and the activities of British armoured units on the western and north-western sides of the perimeter have been intensified, indicating preparations for an assault on the flanks.

The Italians, however, are securely entrenched in their concrete pillboxes and emplacements, connected underground in key areas and there is no disposition to regard the operation as other than difficult and arduous as long as the morale of the Italian troops besieged holds high.—International News Service.

Dive-Bombing Attacks On British Troops

Spasmodic artillery fire from both sides continued on Christmas Day at Bardia, while the British forces have been subjected to dive-bombing attacks by enemy aircraft, though front line observers state these attacks were mostly ineffective, causing few casualties.

Throughout the Western Desert, British padres held a simple Christmas Service for the troops.

Air Marshal Longmore's Message

Air Marshal Longmore, Commander-in-Chief R.A.F. Middle East, has sent a message to all ranks of the R.A.F., the Australian Air Force and the South African Air Force, sending Christmas greetings.

The message says: "With ever-increasing resources and the high morale of the squadrons, we shall look forward to a victorious New Year and a proper Christmas in the years to come." — Reuter.

QUEEN WILHELMINA'S CONFIDENCE

"Having followed the course of events with tense attention I believe myself to be in a position to tell you that in recent months prospects have greatly improved. We face the future with ever greater confidence in ultimate victory than before."

So declared Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands in a broadcast speech on Christmas Day to her people in the Netherlands and the East and West Indies. — Reuter.



NOT ENOW-MEN, but experts testing asbestos fire fighting suits for the Fleet Air Arm. The Fleet Air Arm is being equipped with these asbestos suits for rescue work. The main object is to permit the rescue of airmen who may be trapped in a blazing aircraft. They can also be used in helping to combat fire on board aircraft carriers or on a warship which may carry aircraft. (Copyright, Fox).

DISMAY AND UNCERTAINTY IN BENGHAZI

THE DISMAY AND uncertainty caused in Libya by the British offensive is described in the Athens newspaper "Vradyni" by a Greek who escaped from Benghazi a few days ago.

The inhabitants of Tobruk and Derna were fleeing south as refugees and the native population was already discussing a possible Italian capitulation.

The morale of the native troops he described as very low, chiefly because nine-tenths of the thousands of wounded coming from the Sollum region were natives.

He quoted a report that a whole Askari regiment stationed in the southern sector of the Libyan frontier had broken up and disappeared in the desert. When the Greek left Benghazi no Italian convoys had arrived for a fortnight, which was greatly worrying the authorities as supplies by plane were far from adequate. — Reuter.

GENERAL WAVELL'S ORDER OF THE DAY

General Wavell, in an Order of the Day to his troops, says the operations have not ended and further efforts will bring further successes.

The Order thanks all ranks and says the success of operations in the Western Desert was due to careful preparation, good administration and hard training behind the lines, as well as in the theatre of war.

Only troops trained to the highest moral and physical pitch and led with dashing confidence could have carried through the operation so swiftly and successfully at such small cost. — Reuter.

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO NAZIS

RUDOLF HESS, HITLER'S DEPUTY, SPEAKING FROM A BOMBER AERODROME, BROADCAST A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO GERMAN AT HOME AND ABROAD IN WHICH HE USED THE HONOURED THEME OF THE "CERTAINTY OF GERMAN VICTORY."

Hess added: "We all know, and above all the enemy knows, that Germany even to-day has not yet reached the culminating point of her strength in carrying out this fight."

Goering also sent a Christmas message to the German air force, thanking them for their courage and initiative. — Reuter.

BETHLEHEM'S FIRST CHRISTMAS BLACKOUT

BETHLEHEM IS HAVING its first "black-out" Christmas in history, and even the Church of the Nativity and the old St. Christian Church are wrapped in a protective gloom instead of being a blaze of triumphant lights as is the custom on peaceful Christmas Eves.

The traditional bonfire in the fields where shepherds still watch their flocks by night must this year be put out early lest it guide Italian raiders.

This conformity to regulations, however, will not prevent sheep being roasted before the fire as in past years, and Wavellnight service in the Church of the Nativity.

Behind curtained doors and darkened windows, the hall of worship and the cave in which Christ was born will be illuminated by a myriad candles and globes, and at midnight the Star of Bethlehem will shine forth serene and bright above the worshippers.

Jerusalem has been a cosmopolitan city for over 1,000 years but to-day it has a new cosmopolitanism of armed men—from the British Empire, Free France, Poland and Czechoslovakia. — Reuter.

ASSAB BOMBED

The R.A.F. on Monday night bombed Assab, the objective being a pumping station, says a communiqué in Aden. All bombs fell within the target area. — Reuter.

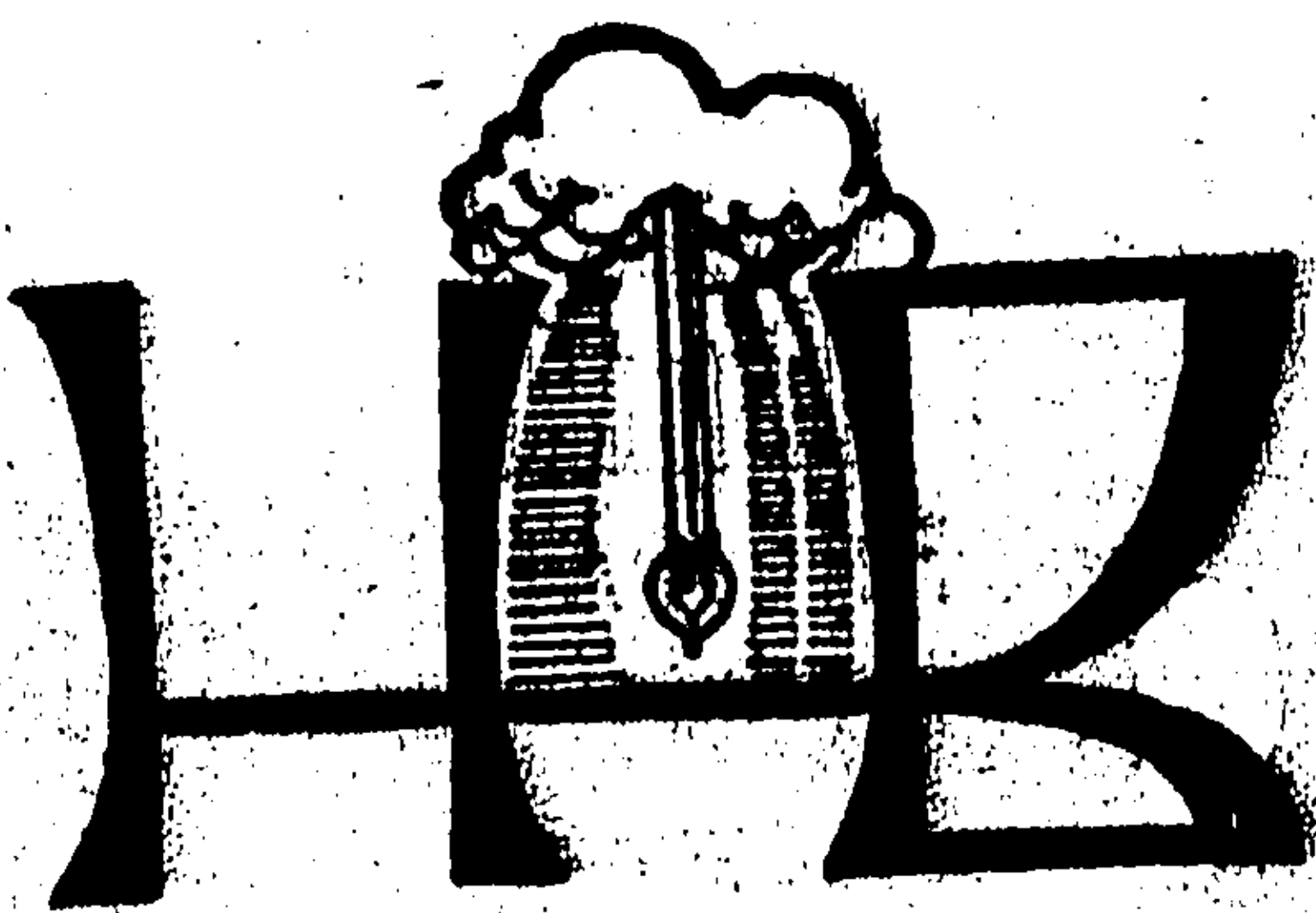
FATSHAN TO SAIL

Preparations are being made for the s.s. Fatshan to sail for Canton on Tuesday (New Year's Eve).

FERRY THEFT

Mr. Collins, residing at No. 4, Prue Building, has reported the theft of a basket containing clothing valued at \$50, on the Star Ferry launch, at about 11:15 a.m. yesterday.

HAVE AN H.B.—



—AND THEN TRY!

FRESH ADVANCES BY GREEKS

Italians Retreating North-West Towards Valona

Many Prisoners And Much Booty Taken

MIRS BAY LIGHTER EXPLOSION

Two persons lost their lives and eight others suffered injuries following an explosion on board lighter No. 3042V in Mirs Bay on Christmas Eve.

The eight injured have been admitted to the Kowloon Hospital.

CELEBRATE WITH HEADS HIGH

THE GREEKS CAN CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS WITH THEIR HEADS HIGH, FOR THE WAR THEY HAVE BEEN FORCED INTO AS A RESULT OF ITALY'S AGGRESSION "IS NOT A WAR OF CONQUEST BUT OF DELIVERANCE," WRITES M. VEKIARELLIS, DIRECTOR OF THE ATHENS NEWS AGENCY, IN THE NEWSPAPER "ETHENOS" YESTERDAY.

He refers to Mussolini as "an oppressor knowing nothing of love and taking his stand on hate."

The writer adds: "The enemy hypocritically calls himself a Christian, yet he is striking at Christ with the same dagger with which he is striking Greece, for he who breaks Christ's law of peace stabs Christ himself."

"There are, however, many Italians against whom the Duce uttered threats in his speech of November 16 who are friends of Greece and justice."—Reuter.

SIENNA DIVISION GETS ROUGH HANDLING

THE ITALIAN SIENNA Division, used for the invasion of Greece, came in for rough treatment at the hands of the Greeks in the three-day battle before the capture of Chimara.

This division is alleged by the Greeks to have committed a number of atrocities and to have carried off hostages when forced to retreat across the Kalamas River in the early days of the campaign.

Three Black Shirt divisions, according to latest reports from the front, also suffered badly in the great attack on Chimara.

Attempts by Italian planes to aid their troops were unsuccessful, and Greek artillery also outshelled the Italian.

The road from Mount Bori, a few miles east of Chimara to the town itself, is reported to be

THE GREEKS HAVE MADE FRESH ADVANCES, DRIVING ON VALONA, THE OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN IN ATHENS STATED, ADDING THAT THE ITALIANS ARE RETREATING NORTH-WEST FROM CHIMARA.

The Greeks also continued the advance north-east of Chimara and occupied new positions, while further inland a point of great strategic importance has fallen to the Greeks operating north and east of Premeti.

A communique says that during local fights the Greeks made a number of prisoners and captured eight guns and numerous material.

The triumphal Greek entry into the Adriatic coastal town of Chimara—which is not only an important milestone on the way to Valona, last of the two remaining Albanian ports in Italian hands but also the extreme right wing of what the Italians planned to be a line of resistance from the coast to Lake Ohrida—was made on Sunday.

This latest in the now long list of Greek victories, starting with Koritza, is particularly significant, not only strategically but also to the Greek nation.

Greek Town

Chimara is inhabited by a purely Greek population and was occupied, together with the surrounding country of northern Epirus, by the Greek army after the second Balkan War in 1913.

But the Great Powers at the Conference of Florence decided that the northern Epirus should be included in the independent Albanian State.

Roads Strwn With Dead

The Greeks accepted the settlement but the inhabitants of the region themselves raised the banner of revolt under Captain Spyromilios, with the result finally that northern Epirus, with Chimara as capital, was granted autonomy within Albania, with the right to raise its own armed force and making Greek the official language.

The Greek troops found the town devastated, the Italians having destroyed everything they could not carry off.

The road leading to Chimara was found by the Greek troops to be strewn with Italian dead.

Military material abandoned by the Italians in their flight was sufficient to equip three divisions.—Reuter.

ROOSEVELT CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

Most human beings want a "peaceful chance to better the world in a voluntary way and not in a way imposed by conquest," President Roosevelt declared in his annual Christmas greeting to the people of the United States.

The President further declared: "We must keep on striving for a better world."

"It is unintelligent to be defeatist. Crises may beget crises but the progress underneath does not wholly halt. It does go forward."

The President added: "This cannot be a merry Christmas for those of mature years but it can be a happy Christmas if by happiness we mean that we have done with doubts; that we have set our hearts anew and that we still believe in the golden rule of all mankind."—Reuter.

RONALD COLMAN'S GIFT

A cheque for £100 has just been received by the Royal Air Force Comforts Committee from Mr. Ronald Colman, the famous British film star. Writing from Beverly Hills, California, Ronald Colman especially asks that his gift be devoted to the purchase of cigarettes and tobacco for the men of the R.A.F., "in gratitude."

The R.A.F. Comforts Fund exists to supply the fighting men of the R.A.F. and their Allied comrades of the air, with gifts and comforts of all kinds. Besides woollens for men on exposed jobs, games, radio sets and other recreational items are provided.

Donations of cash, or of knitted articles, and other gifts, should be sent direct to the Officer-in-Charge, R.A.F. Comforts Committee, 20, Berkeley Square, London, W. 1.



PERSISTENCE REWARDED

A Hurricane pilot up with his Squadron sighted 100 bombers and fighters coming up to the Thames Estuary. He selected a Me. 109 and dived on it. His guns did not fire. He pressed the button again, and again the guns did not fire, so he turned away.

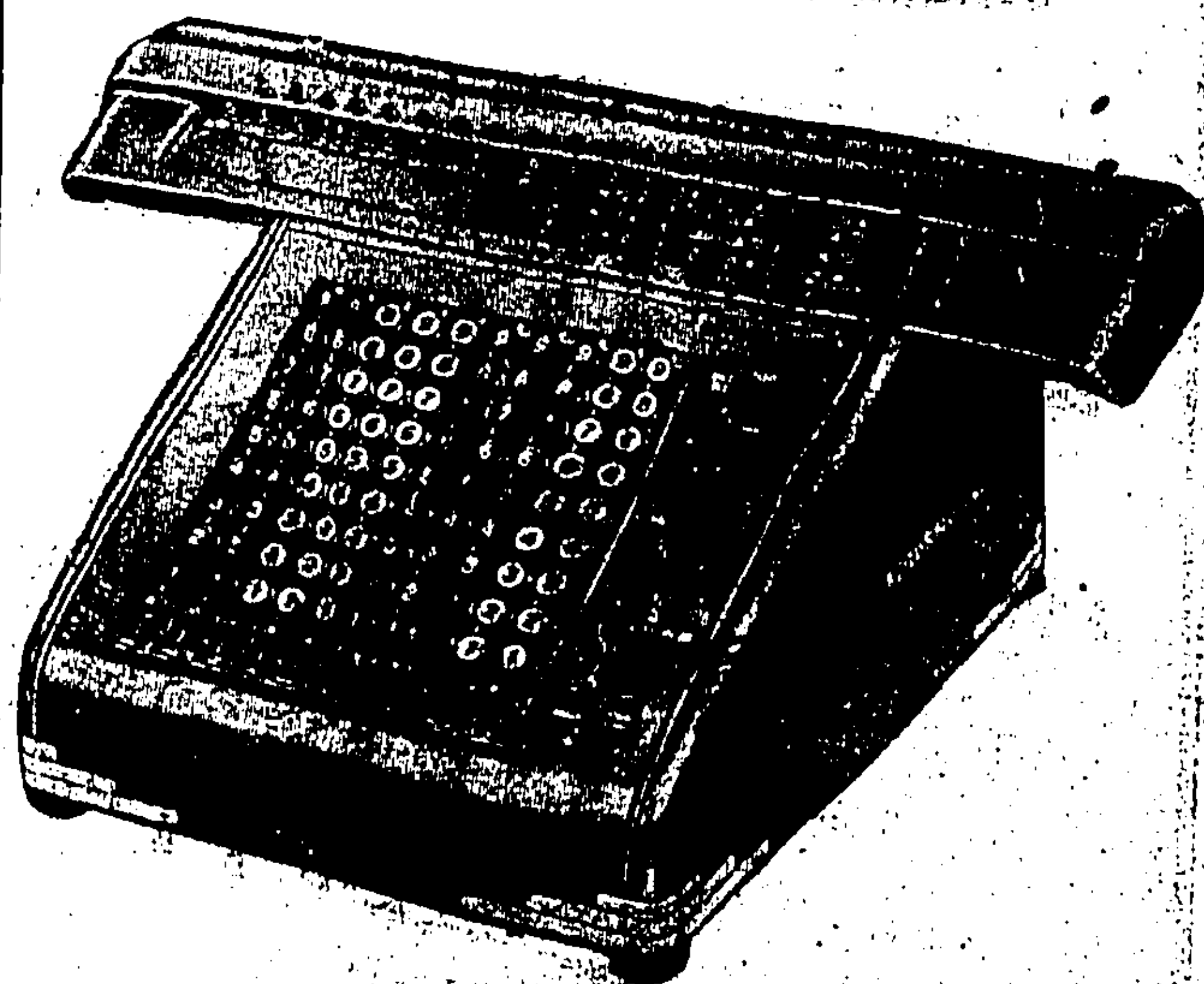
Climbing again he found a Me. 110 and he got on its tail. He pressed his gun button a third time. Two guns fired and jammed after ten rounds. He waited a moment and pressed again. Some of the guns fired, but all stopped after a second.

At this point he might well have gone home but he saw a formation of Me. 109's flying away from him. Diving on a straggler, he tried his guns once more. All of them fired for two seconds. He hit one Me. 109 in the petrol tank. It caught fire and crashed into the sea.

That's persistence.

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PREMIER'S APPEAL TO ITALIANS ROUSES NAZI FURY

**MR. CHURCHILL'S BROADCAST APPEAL
TO THE ITALIAN PEOPLE HAS PROVOKED
ANGRY COMMENT FROM THE GERMAN OF-
FICIAL NEWS AGENCY.**

The agency describes the broadcast as
"the desperate act of a man who has lost his
lucidity of mind."

Alleging that Mr. Churchill is ignorant of the psychology of the totalitarian State, the agency says: "He has grasped nothing of the outlook of Germany and Italy which, politically and military, are an invincible block of power unequalled by any alliance of former times." —Reuter.

Mr. Churchill's speech was prominently published in all Greek newspapers which emphasised that his words will find an echo in all Christian hearts.

Will For Peace

The "Kathimerini" says: "Christian nations do not want to let go by the opportunity of Christmas without showing a will for peace."

"All we want is the resignation of this fool (Mussolini) and his criminal gang who oppress the Italian people."

"The chances of the peace, happiness and independence of the Italian nation are in its own hands. If they do not dismiss this gang the people will have to suffer grievous consequences." —Reuter.

Washington Comment

Mr. Churchill's speech, which was welcomed in Washington, is considered most timely.

The speech appears to show that British and American policy is

N.Z. PAYS TRIBUTE

AN ASSURANCE OF THE BOUNDLESS ADMIRATION WITH WHICH NEW ZEALAND REGARDS THE HEROIC ATTITUDE OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE IS CONTAINED IN A CABLE FROM MR. PETER FRASER, THE PRIME MINISTER, CONVEYING GREETING TO MR. CHURCHILL.

The message says: "We are deeply conscious of our great debt to the British people and to the armed forces of the Commonwealth for their untiring efforts on land and sea and in the air, and to the men of the Mercantile Marine."

"We have full confidence that the united efforts of the British Commonwealth will result in victory and we will continue to do our utmost to contribute to the common task." —Reuter.

PETAÏN TO EXERCISE CLEMENCY

Marshal PetaÏn has decided to exercise clemency in the case of a number of officers and non-commissioned officers captured during General de Gaulle's attempt to land at Dakar, according to an official announcement issued in Vichy.

The communique says these men have requested that they should again be allowed to take their places in the French Army.

CANDOUR ON DANISH RADIO

The German-controlled Danish wireless last night gave an unusually full summary of King George's broadcast.

Several passages of the speech were quoted verbatim, such as the King's statement that the inhabitants of Britain's bombed cities are facing their ordeal in a way of which they can be proud. —Reuter.

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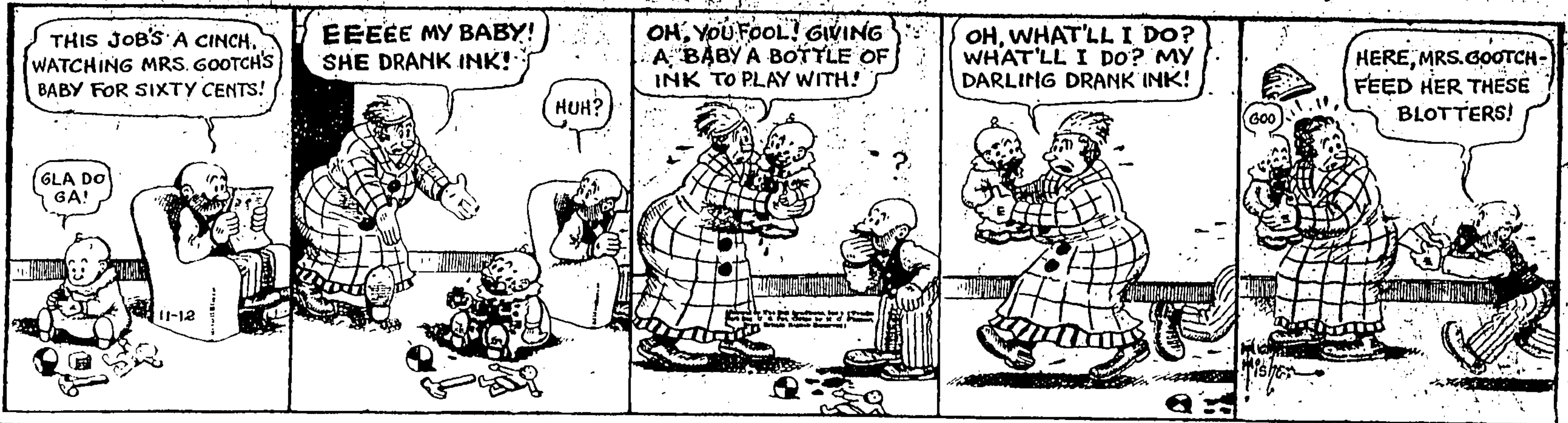
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Nazis Report Clash Off The East Coast

"DURING A RAID BY German motor torpedo-boats towards the East Coast of England the leading craft sank a 10,000-ton British tanker and a 6,000-ton cargo steamer despite the protection of six British destroyers," a German High Command communique alleges.

SWORD OF HONOUR TO DE GAULLE

FREE FRENCHMEN AND FREE FRENCHWOMEN HAVE PRESENTED GENERAL DE GAULLE, LEADER OF THE FREE FRENCH FORCES, WITH A SWORD OF HONOUR AS AN EXPRESSION OF LOYALTY AND RESPECT.

The ceremony took place at the Overseas Club in London, and as General de Gaulle entered the room the Marseillaise was played while French African troops pre-

The communique added that a short close-range engagement developed between the torpedo-boats and the destroyers. All the German craft, it was asserted, returned safely.

The communique declared that six ships in Loch Linnhe, on the Scottish west coast, were hit by heavy bombs, that trains were machine-gunned and that during Monday night London and Manchester were attacked by strong formations of the Luftwaffe.

British raids on Germany were alleged to have done only slight damage in the south-west frontier districts.—Reuter.

sented arms.

General de Gaulle, returning thanks for the gift, emphasised the need for unity at the present time.—Reuter.

CIVIL WAR IN NORWAY

"A proper Christmas cannot be celebrated by Norwegians in a Norway in chains," declared King Haakon in a broadcast to his countrymen from London.

Devoting much of the broadcast to the unarmed civil war now going on in Norway, King Haakon said this civil war was most painful to him.

More than ever it was important that a united people should stand together in will to self-maintenance.

Referring to the seamen of Norway and Norwegians who volunteered for military service abroad, King Haakon expressed the thanks of himself and the Royal Family for the sympathy shown to them, and concluded with the prayer: "God bless our dear fatherland."—Reuter.

Quisling Given A Time Limit

The Quisling Party in Norway has been given a time limit by the Germans within which it must show that it is capable of uniting the Norwegians, according to a despatch to the Norwegian telegraph agency in London yesterday.

The party is therefore considering desperate means of intensifying propaganda and threats as well as rewards being used in securing members.

The agency adds that circular letters and statements issued by the party show how difficult it is to obtain the new members desired.—Reuter.

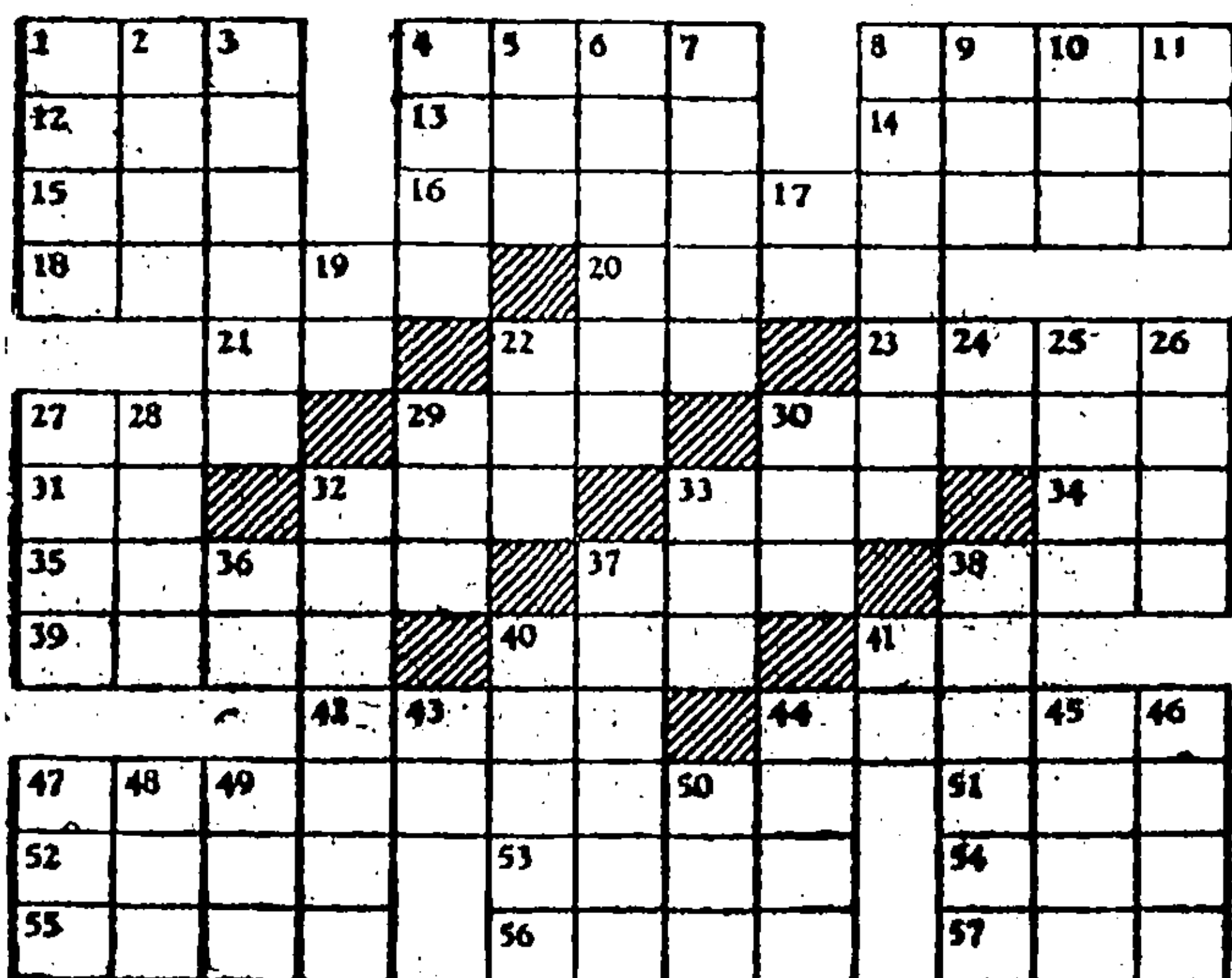
LOANS FOR CHINA

Three Chinese financiers from Shanghai have arrived in San Francisco to arrange loans for reconstruction in China.

They are: Mr. P. C. Young, of the Kien-cheng Banking Corporation; Mr. C. S. Liu, of the China Development Finance Corporation, and Mr. Fred Sze, of the Joint Savings Company.

They will remain in San Francisco two or three days before heading for Washington to confer with Government officials and Mr. T. V. Soong, the special Chinese envoy.—Reuter.

OUR 10-MINUTE CROSS-WORD



HORIZONTAL

- 1 Distant
- 4 Temporary fashions
- 6 Moon goddess
- 12 Rice paste
- 13 Medley
- 14 Goddess of discord
- 15 Nothing
- 16 To fill completely
- 18 Ground grain
- 20 To breathe heavily
- 21 Babylonian god
- 22 Possessive pronoun
- 23 Metal
- 27 Lout
- 29 Music: three
- 30 Bondman
- 31 Preposition
- 32 Vase
- 33 Pronoun
- 34 Comparative ending
- 35 To issue suddenly
- 37 Young bear
- 38 Ancient fibrous plant
- 39 Flat utensil
- 40 Dutch weight
- 41 Colloquial father

VERTICAL

- 12 Indication
- 44 Boundary
- 47 Faithfulness
- 51 Silkworm
- 52 Succulent plant
- 53 Journey
- 54 Hastened
- 55 Planet
- 56 Heraldic device
- 57 Insect

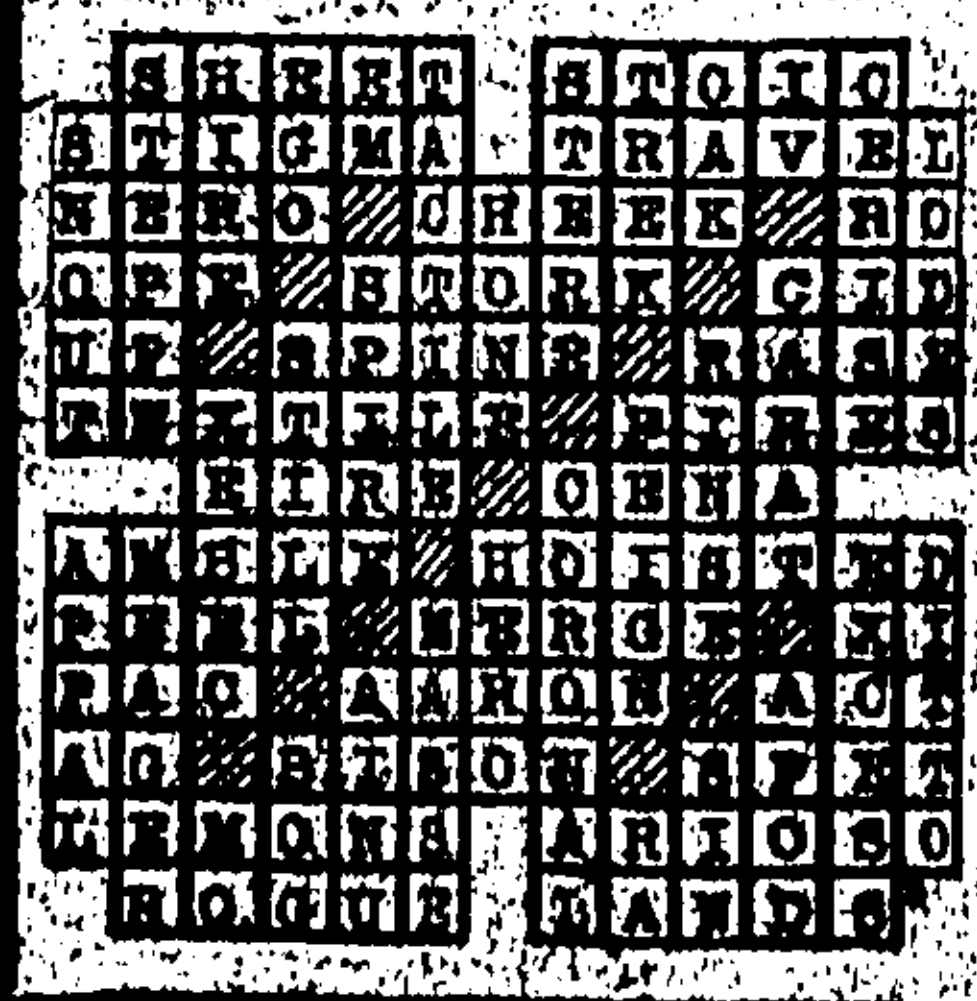
VERTICAL

- 1 Animal's tooth
- 2 Mohammedan prince
- 3 Prominence
- 4 Citadel
- 5 Beverage
- 6 Ladle
- 7 Pertaining to the sun
- 8 Leguminous plants
- 9 Swiss canton

VERTICAL

- 10 Scandinavian kobold (var.)
- 11 Ember
- 17 Printer's measure
- 19 Symbol for samarium
- 22 Domestic fowl
- 24 Sun god
- 25 Through
- 26 Roman emperor
- 27 To eject
- 28 South American armadillo
- 29 To attempt
- 30 Kinsman
- 32 Greek general in the Trojan war
- 33 To sing softly
- 36 Note of scale
- 37 Large gun
- 38 Photographing instrument
- 40 Marble
- 41 Greek letter
- 43 Pronoun
- 44 Stringed instrument
- 45 Persian
- 46 Hue
- 47 Rodding place
- 48 Palm leaf
- 49 A shot
- 50 To sever

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POPE CALLS FOR FIVE VICTORIES: STIRRING CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

"THE SOLACE WE DERIVE FROM THE RICHES OF CHRISTMAS GREETINGS IS GREATER BECAUSE OF THE SAD TIMES IN WHICH WE LIVE," SAID HIS HOLINESS THE POPE IN A BROADCAST FROM THE VATICAN AFTER RECEIVING GREETINGS FROM THE COLLEGE OF CARDINALS.

"As members of the Roman Curia," the Pope added, "you have a deep-felt understanding of the foreign mission in which you, each in his own office and domain, have to collaborate and participate."

Referring to the problems that will arise at the end of the war, "when people will be obliged to dedicate themselves to the task of repairing the deep-seated evil which will be their bitter social and economic heritage," the Pope said the nations will come to realise the need for a solution of social problems in the spirit of Christianity.

"The world will leave the hard school of to-day with an improved mind. Mankind will listen to the voice of reason and of justice. Only in such a state of mind can the world proceed to the establishment of a new order based on justice."

Lasting Peace

Saying that he wished to give "a few precepts for the conclusion of lasting peace," the Pope continued:—

"We must strive first for victory over hatred, for grave damage is inflicted upon the human soul by a lack of the love of Christ.

"Secondly, victory over the lack of trust in international cooperation.

"Thirdly, victory over the grim principle that force stands for right—that is, the return of normality among nations.

"Fourthly, victory over economic divergences.

"The Pope added: "We pray that men will grow mature enough to establish a new and just social and economic order. We pray that mankind will be liberated from their tribulations."

Sad And Dark

Before enunciating his five peace precepts—the Pope referred to war which, with tragic and almost fatal persistence, once let loose proceeds on its way "forgetful of the principles of humanity, indifferent to the usages of convention of war, and goes to such extremes that an age less troubled than yours will one day note its events as among the saddest and darkest of the world's history.

"Our thoughts run forward anxiously to the moment when the said chronicles of man's sufferings or the minds in anguish of wounded prisoners and refugees, the down-trodden, famished, fainting and weeping, come in their entirety to the light.

"But what we know at present is already sufficient to oppress and tear the heart."

Fact Of Consequence

Continuing, the Pope said: "Exactly one year ago, in this very place, were formulated certain principles regarded as essential to the preservation of peace, which would conform to the principles of justice, equity and honour and would thus be enduring.

"If the succeeding march of events has delayed their application to a more distant time the self-same proposals have lost none of their intrinsic truth and conformity to reality and their moral force.

"To-day we find ourselves faced with a fact of some consequence as a symptom.

New Era

"From an impression of the polemics of the warring factions concerning their objectives in the war and the ultimate peace settlement, there emerges, ever more clearly in the mind a quasi-universal opinion which contends that both pre-war Europe, as well

as its political structure, is now undergoing a process of transformation of such a nature as to signal the dawn of a new era.

"Europe and its system of States will not be as they were before. Something new, better, advanced, more sound, freer and stronger must replace the past in order to eliminate its defects, weaknesses and deficiencies said to have been convincingly disclosed by recent events.

"The various parties differ in their ideals and aims but agree in their desire for a new arrangement and do not consider possible or desirable a return to former conditions.

Bitter Taste

"With some clear knowledge of the defects of the present determined orientation towards a rearrangement that will safeguard the juridical basis of political and international life, no-one can be surprised that this pulsating desire is felt more keenly by those larger sections that live by manual labour and so have always found in peace and war to taste more than others the bitter results of economic dislocation, internal and international.

"Still less will the Church be surprised."

The Pope then explained that the Church could not be called on to favour one system more than another, but added that "as an orbit of the universal value of Divine Law" there was ample room for liberty of action for the most varied forms of political opinion, while the practical application of political systems largely depended on circumstances, which, considered in themselves, were extraneous to the purpose and action of the Church.

The sole interest of the Church, he said, was "to establish a society which would be humanly praiseworthy, spiritually elevating and a source of genuine good."—Reuter.

FOUR ITALIANS SHOT DOWN

Four Italian aircraft were definitely destroyed by R.A.F. fighters on offensive patrols over the Bardia-Tobruk area on Monday, states an R.A.F. Middle East communique in Cairo.

With regard to the attack on Benina on the night of December 22/23, it is now definitely established that one hangar at the aerodrome there was completely destroyed by fire and that three Italian aircraft on the ground near the hangar were burnt out.

In Italian East Africa dive-bombing attacks were made on a pumping station near Assab and the target was well straddled with bombs.

Reconnaissance flights were also made in this area and a Rhodesian squadron carried out successful attacks on Italian positions near Gallabat.

Fires were started followed by explosions.—Reuter.

CHOLERA PRECAUTION

The Medical Authorities stress the need for precautions to be taken in connexion with food and drinks owing to the existence of a number of persons in the population carrying the cholera germ.

Recently, three cases of cholera occurred in one tenement building in Kennedy Town.

On examining the twenty-five immediate contacts with the patients in question, five were found to be cholera carriers.

Uncooked vegetables and bruised fruit, and shell fish from possibly infected locations should not be eaten.

Insistence on cleanliness in the preparation and serving of food is desirable. Food should be protected from flies and other insects which should be exterminated. Close attention should, also, be paid to the satisfactory collection of refuse and human wastes.

ADMIRALTY THANKS NAVY FOR YEAR OF SPLENDID WORK

A TRIBUTE TO THE courage and tenacity of all units of the British Fleet is paid in a Christmas message from the Admiralty.

The message points out that the same conditions prevailed now as last year, when the Admiralty referred to the necessity for pursuing the war at sea with the same unrelenting zeal during the Christmas season as it had been since the beginning of the war.

"During the past year our surface forces, submarines and aircraft of the Fleet Air Arm have been in contact with the enemy on many occasions and have invariably shown a fighting spirit and tenacity of purpose of the highest order.

"At the same time the smaller

units employed on escort patrol and minesweeping have carried out their arduous duties, so essential to the defence of our trade and the life of the country, in a courageous and tireless manner in all weather, and have earned the gratitude and admiration of the Admiralty."—Reuter.

THE CHINA MAIL, DECEMBER 26, 1940.

CHINA MAIL
WINDSOR HOUSETHE FUTURE OF
EUROPE

Herr Hitler's speech a few days ago, which was aptly and tersely described by the American press as a "pep" talk to bolster up the courage and enthusiasm of German workers, was dealt with at some length by the British press. It was somewhere suggested that Mr. Churchill would or should reply with a reiteration of Britain's war aims, but this has not been considered necessary at this juncture nor would it be wise to bind any future Government as to details, which, in themselves must take shape as circumstances permit.

The "London Times," however, went to the trouble of refuting once again the oft-repeated story which characterises many of Hitler's utterances, that Britain is seeking to crush Germany out of existence. "It can only be because Hitler reads British policy in the light of his own designs that he predicts that the loss of the war by Germany will mean the dispersal of the German nation. This view," continued the leader, "has already been refuted by the British statement of the purposes for which Britain entered the war."

It is no part of British interest or British intentions to destroy Germany or, as Hitler alleges, to impose a Westphalian peace. No European order can be complete from which Germany is excluded and among the most important of Britain's war aims is a Europe in which Germany occupies an equal but not the dominant place."

This reasonable expression of opinion of one of the leading British newspapers stands out boldly in face of the German Fuehrer's violent and hysterical outpouring of hate, the more so as it was written in a city suffering almost daily from German indiscriminate bombing which in itself is calculated to arouse deep resentment and a desire for revenge.

Another statement as to the future status of Europe deserves attention as coming from Mr. Herbert Morrison, Home Secretary and Minister for Home Security. Mr. Morrison was dealing with the purpose of the war and pointed to the possibility of a cooperative international system guaranteed by an international police force as visualised by Britain in the future European order. "Never again," he said, "shall it be possible for ruthless bomber forces to terrorise the continent, to smash homes and cities, to crush innocent bodies of women and children, to blast into powder the fruits of man's toil and the monuments of his greatness. Whatever else peace may bring or take away, that at least must go for ever. Separate air forces, tommy-gun or international gangsters must be abolished—we must have an order in which every man is free not only to think and talk but work—for constructive ends. I see no reasonable hope of freedom until we can achieve conscious deliberate mobilisation of our economic resources on a cooperative international plan."

These two statements are sufficient to illustrate how Britain visualises the "new order" in Europe. Germany, needless to say, has an entirely different plan in mind. German leaders in the economic and financial fields have prepared a scheme which they are, incidentally, already attempting to put into effect, in which the Western nations of Europe will be subject to strict German tutelage, basing their economic structure on lines dictated by Berlin. Hitler has announced to the German people that he is conducting this war in order to save the nation from serfdom but he added, that not one inch of territory now occupied by German soldiers would be surrendered. This statement is in itself sufficient to indicate the gap which exists between the British and German mentality.

Mines Can't Stop These Bold Fishermen

WHEN you eat your kipper at breakfast do you ever stop to think of the trials and difficulties this little fish has given the men whose task—they would have me call it duty—it is to get it to your table?

You are probably more concerned about the price of it. Naturally. But consider, too, the heavy price demanded of those elements and war dangers, staking stout-hearted fellows who brave their lives in a gamble of death. And just for fish!

These men, the plain fishermen as we know them, normally playing a small part in Britain's cinderella industry, are to-day helping to feed the nation, and so helping to win the war, for food for the people is life for them.

Thus it is that these discarded workers of yesterday became an essential and integral part of our war machinery. They claim no place on the scroll of our national heroes—yet what else are they?—they are pleased to think they are contributing something to victory.

Hard Cash For The Exchequer

Let me say it is no small "something." Catching fish not only means food for the community; there is hard cash for the Exchequer in every basket of fish landed. The more fish brought home the more Excess Profits Duty goes to the Government.

This purse is being well filled by the labours of an industry which three years ago was so heavily hit by unfair foreign competition that it was in danger of a knock-out.

The country—I call the Government that—refused a helping hand to save it then. To-day that same industry is saving the country. Let this lesson on the war be well and truly learned.

Let it be remembered that these fishing trawlers and crews, whose normal activities were considerably restricted when war broke out, gave invaluable service in other capacities.

Don't forget how they helped in the Dunkirk evacuation and in sweeping the seas of enemy mines.

Others remained to keep alive their trade that in itself is a powerful war weapon. It was these I went to see at a North-West port which, without them, would be off the map.

Means Life To Allied Trades

Here in spite of the calls made by the Government for the various craft, there are ships, 300-ton trawlers down to the little 130-ton drifters. That means employment for some hundreds of fishermen. But that is not all. Life to this industry is life to the allied trades.

Think what it means to colliers, railwaymen, ship-repairers, boiler makers, equipment manufacturers, market labour, curers, filleters, etc., among these depend-



dent offshoots, when the main industry is flourishing.

I saw an equipment store in which hundreds of men and women are employed—thanks to the labours of the fishermen. This is

By William Gibbons

only one of the several such firms where they have women engaged in net making, turning out many nets a year with a consumption of many tons of netting.

From ceiling to floor were stocks of ropes, hemp, wire, nets, twines, engine-room and deck stores and fishermen's outfitting.

Job That Takes Strength, Courage

It was good to see these girls, whose nimble fingers were filling shuffles and "knitting" nets with dexterous twists and turns of hands. It meant prosperity.

So it is that this town, existing by its own industries, relies on the fishermen.

A few yards away I found curers and filleters and other stores facing the docks, whose loaded quayside means work and more work for them.

That is what the fisherman is doing. But it takes a strong and courageous man to do this job. He knows what lies ahead of him: possibly a plane attack, a meeting with a submarine, or he may haul in a torpedo or mine—as they have on occasion. It takes more than that, however, to deter him.

Their Perilous 300-Mile Trip

Here is a typical trip that takes 12 men from the safety of their

homes; from their wives and children to seas fraught with these perils. Away from port, a good long sail to their fishing area, and then the trawl is put out. Work is started.

Day and night, nine men, skipper, mate, bo'sun, and six deck hands, toil almost unceasingly. The trawl is hauled in every three hours, the fish is emptied into large portable containers, and out it goes again.

There is a lot to be done before the trawl is brought in again. The fish must be gutted and washed and put into the fish rooms and packed with ice. Little time for sleep between these "relays", often none. If there's an hour and a half rest they're lucky.

And so it goes until after ten of these days and nights, 24 hours of work the whole time, the little trawlers head for port and the men a well-earned, but brief, respite; a mere 36 hours in their homes before going off again. That is after constant sailing, on an average 60 miles a day.

Proudest Skipper In The Town

True, there's reward. That's as it should be. The more fish caught the fuller their wage packets. Proudest skipper in this town is a stalwart who holds the record with a catch of 770 boxes, each of 10st., in ten such days fishing.

That, in cash, is over £4,000 earned for his employers — and the Government. His next best is 680 boxes. As a colleague of his put it, Bob doesn't mind going into waters many brave men would shun.

I met men who had been mangled and mangled. To talk of them is to swiftly see why their little boats are always in harbor times, though under the

shadow of war. They just refuse to be intimidated by Nazi terrorism.

"We've a job to do, and we are going to do it. The people want feeding, and if we can help to do it, we shall." Thus spoke a man who recently saw his crew at the mercy of a Nazi plane overhead, machine-gunned before the sea around them was churned into a foaming mass by bomb explosions.

"My chief engineer saved us," he told me. "One bomb broke the feed pipe, and there was danger of the boat flooding. He showed great presence of mind, and rammed a pit prop in the hole."

Played Part At Dunkirk

Then I met a second edition of Jack Hood, the old boxing champion. He left the fishing fields of Iceland to take part in the Dunkirk evacuation.

He is scarcely proud of the fact that whereas constant bombing attacks during two trips from Dunkirk to Ramsgate could not keep him off the sea, meningitis did. But he was out fishing for some days before he knew he'd contracted it.

He certainly gets plenty of excitement. During the last war his smack was sent to the bottom after a meeting with a U-boat.

Another skipper, so modest he would not have his name in print, told me of a strange catch he had recently. The trawl was brought in, and the fish emptied into the container on deck. Among the fish he saw what appeared to be a huge stone. It was a mine! Anyway, he brought it back with him among his "catch."

'Dirty' Job, But Fish Is Clean

Yes, it's a "dirty" job all right, but you can take it from me they keep your fish scrupulously clean from the time it is hauled in to the time it is taken to your local shops.

When the gutting and washing is done on board, the fish is packed in ice in the fish rooms until the boat gets back to port. On the quayside, the fish is repacked into baskets and hauled out by electric winches. The crew then have the task of thoroughly washing out the fish rooms with fresh water and hand-scrubbing the equipment.

Hasty plans for the auction sales, which start at 7.30. The fish is graded, and laid out in boxes on the floor of the market, and the bargaining begins.

Brisk Bargains—And So To You

Merchants from all parts of the country are there, giving a quick glance here and there, and making their bidding. Side by side are boxes of two dozen different varieties of fish.

The men who have brought home this enormous cargo, their washing and mending, with mild interest in the bargaining before their eyes, stand by and watch the fish being sold and it is freshly packed and sent off in special railway vans or despatched to local stores and millers.

And so the task of getting the food is completed.



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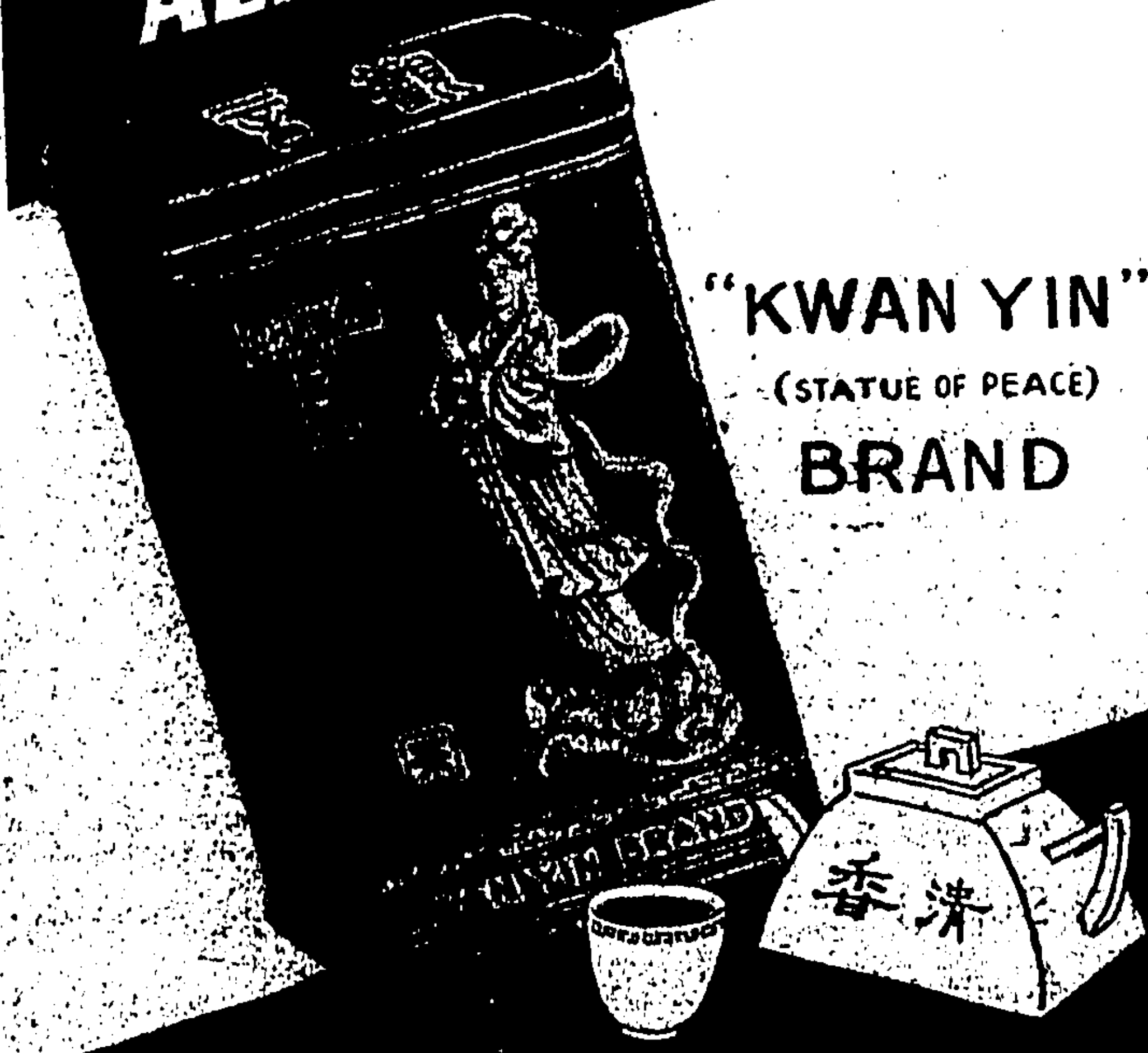
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INDIAN OCEAN SINKING

SURVIVOR'S VIVID STORY OF RAIDER

THE NAZI RAIDER WHICH SANK THE BRITISH FREIGHTER "PORT BRISBANE" (8,739 TONS) AND THE "MAIMO" (8,011 TONS) IN THE INDIAN OCEAN RECENTLY HAS BEEN OFFICIALLY DESCRIBED AS A MOTORSHIP OF ABOUT 6,000 TONS.

With raked stem and cruiser stern, her hull is painted a light colour. She carries a squat funnel and goal-post masts, fitted with searchlights. Her armament consists of torpedo tubes in the after well deck, and broadsides, believed to be of four 4-inch guns. Her outward appearance in every respect is that of a modern cargo motor-ship.

Twenty-seven survivors of the Port Brisbane, who escaped in a lifeboat under cover of darkness, have been picked up by an Australian warship and landed at an Australian port. The remainder, including a woman passenger, are prisoners on the raider, and the crew of the Maimoa is also believed to be on board the enemy ship.

When the survivors arrived in port, they told a dramatic story of their escape in a lifeboat from the Port Brisbane, of how they played "blind man's buff" with the raider as it circled the Port Brisbane, and of their eventual rescue.

The official announcement stated: "An Australian warship has arrived at an Australian port with 27 survivors of the British merchant ship Port Brisbane, which was sunk by an enemy raider in the Indian Ocean five days ago."

Survivor's Vivid Account

"The survivors consist of the second officer, four engineer officers, and 22 of the ship's crew."

"The remainder of the Port Brisbane's complement, including one woman passenger, are prisoners on the raider."

"The Port Brisbane, which had left an Australian port some days previously, was attacked at night when in mid-ocean."

"The enemy raider lit up her target with searchlights, and opened fire at once at a range of a little over a mile. The third round wrecked the wireless room, and the fourth hit the bridge and disabled the steering gear."

"The ship was subsequently abandoned in three boats. The persons in two of them were taken prisoner aboard the raider. Those in the other boat escaped detection in the darkness."

"The ship was subsequently abandoned in three boats. The persons in two of them were taken prisoner aboard the raider. Those in the other boat escaped detection in the darkness."

"After the ship was abandoned, the raider put a boarding party on board and placed time bombs, a number of which were heard to explode. The raider later fired a torpedo into the ship and then made off. The ship subsequently sank."

"During the course of a search of surrounding waters made by the Australian warship, an empty lifeboat from the British merchant ship Maimoa was sighted. It is believed that all the crew of the Maimoa are prisoners in the raider."

The survivors brought to port by the warship are:

Edward Wallace Dingle, second officer; Thomas Arthur Griffith, third engineer; Wilfred Watson, seventh engineer; Ernest Hewick, second refrigerating engineer; Albert Devereux, A.B. Owen Clarke, A.B.; John James Beasley, A.B.; Ola Newman Nielsen, naval gunner; Frank Moran, trimmer; John Millington, trimmer; Henry Lightfoot, trimmer; Daniel McEvan, trimmer; Frank Sargent, deck boy; Leslie Rolls, ordinary seaman; Patrick Dunn, trimmer; Daniel Pedder, trimmer; William Berry, assistant steward; Ernest Ryan, deck boy; Thomas Henderson, seaman passenger; Eric Remy, messroom steward; Patrick McGovern, greaser; Chas. Flander, engine-room storekeeper; Thomas Cecil Lloyd, quartermaster; John McPhillips, trimmer; John Powell, trimmer; Archie Dale Walker,

Powell is in hospital with pleurisy.

Second Officer's Story

On arrival at the port, the second officer of the Port Brisbane, Edward W. Dingle, of Whitley Bay, Newfoundland, told this story:

"My story starts somewhere about 9.50 p.m. last Thursday. I was keeping middle watch, and, naturally, in bed and asleep at that hour. I was awakened by sounds of gunfire and the alarm to go to stations. A klaxon horn was also sounded as an additional alarm. I got out of bed and dressed as rapidly as possible, and attempted to go down the officers' alleyway towards the stern."

"While I was approaching the afterdoor, the deck house was hit and I was thrown in the alleyway, losing my cap, in a state of concussion. I went back to secure another one. I managed to do so, also grasping a couple of tins of cigarettes and my certificate. I got out finally through the forward door, to find at least half a dozen of my shipmates sheltering behind the forward bulwark."

"We were being blinded at the time, I might mention, by the raider's searchlight. Going to the port side, I found my boat, No. 4, with a number of men beside it. A shell had struck the ship amid-ship and the smoke-room and the wireless house were on fire. The raider, however, by this time had ceased firing."

"There were obviously more men than my boat's complement, and I found that the forward star-board boat had been shot away. I also learnt that the last order the man at the wheel had received he had been unable to carry out, as we had been hit, apparently in the steering house aft, this rendering the steering gear useless. The captain had sent the bridge boy to bring the men up from the stokehold and the engineers from the engine-room, and the apprentice was sent before this to the wireless room."

"The wireless officer, Mr. Magee, deserves the highest credit, because I don't yet know how he managed to send the distress signal out in time. The last I saw of him was as he was being led away by the arm by the apprentice from the wireless room. For the moment I thought he was injured, but apparently he could not see too well because he had lost his glasses."

Passed Round Ship

"Having got my boat's new sorted out and the grips let go, I sent Able Seaman Clarke forward for any orders. He returned saying, 'Mr. Dingle, as soon as you are ready, I then sent some of my men across to the starboard boat, but they returned and told me that this boat was already lowered. So without further orders the 24 men got into my boat, which was then lowered.'"

The noise of escaping steam and burning timber at this time was so great that none of these men, though only a short distance away from him, could hear him when he shouted to them. The boat was lowered by means of signals

given with a handlight by putting his hand in front of the lamp. Mr. Dingle said. When the boat reached the water, the able seaman, the storekeeper and Mr. Dingle went down the lifelines.

They proceeded to pull clear of the vessel. At this time the raider passed round the ship outside the lifeboat, which continued to pull away. When the raider circled around the second time, those in the boat found that she was between them and the Port Brisbane.

"At this time, I take it," Mr. Dingle continued, "the raider picked up the crews of the other two boats, and also sent a boarding party aboard the Port Brisbane. We worked round at the raider's stern and endeavoured to keep clear of her. She went right round the Port Brisbane again and headed in our direction."

"Take Our Chance With You"

Mr. Dingle said that he put it to the men that if they showed a light they would also probably be picked up.

The men replied: "We prefer to take our chance with you, instead of any of this Altmak business." He told them not on any account to show a light or strike matches, and to keep down in the boat.

By this time, the boarding party had left the Port Brisbane and returned to the raider. This was followed by a few explosions, which Mr. Dingle said he thought were time bombs.

"The raider circled back again," Mr. Dingle went on, "and, I should say, just before midnight, torpedoed the Port Brisbane in the No. 3 hatch, and then left at a good speed. There were one or two showers of rain in the vicinity, and the exact departure of the raider was not ascertained."

Port Brisbane Founders

"We rested on our oars and lay off to see the effect of the torpedo. At 1 a.m., I thought that the Port Brisbane was not going to sink, and I suggested to the men that when daylight came we should board the vessel and see what could be done. The ship, to all appearances, had not sunk very far."

(Continued on Page 9)

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SURVIVOR'S VIVID STORY OF RAIDER

(Continued from Page 8)

far into the water, but was still on fire. At 2 a.m., however, the Port Brisbane foundered by the head. We had drawn closer to her, and we proceeded to row to the position in which she had sunk. We found two empty lifeboats, in each of which I placed three or four men. The three boats were then tied together. I blew my deck pocket whistle and shouted out to see whether I could get a reply from anyone. No answer came.

"Subsequently we came across the starboard boat, which had been shot away by the raider's guns, two rafts, and a quantity of wreckage. Among the latter, we found several cans of tins and mail bags. We took aboard the boats a few of the cans of tins and the mail bags. After one of the seamen had cut the bags open with his knife, we found parcels which contained small bottles of sauce and pickles, and a couple of Christmas puddings, bars of chocolate, and other small domestic items.

"They were very acceptable considering the predicament in which we found ourselves."

Mr. Dingle said that at 5.55 a.m., when daylight was breaking, he estimated the Port Brisbane's position when she was sunk as near as possible from the direction of the course laid by the master, Captain Steele, at noon on the previous day. The men asked where they were going and Mr. Dingle replied that they would try and make Australia. This, he admitted, he knew was practically impossible because of the winds, currents, and other circumstances. He tried, however, to head as far as possible towards Australia, though he estimated that they would not make much way in the boats—roughly about one and a half to two miles an hour. He wished, however, to stay in the vicinity for some time, as he did not know whether the wireless operator, Mr. Magee, had been able to send out his message, and he doubted whether, under the circumstances, he had done so.

"About 6 a.m. we put up sail," he continued. "At about noon I issued two small dipper—small cylindrical containers of water—and a small piece of tinned meat to each.

"Head For Mauritius"

"Many of the men were sick, probably from shock and through being unused to being in small boats. At 4 p.m. I put it to the men that we could not reach Australia and that the best thing to do was to head for Mauritius. The men answered that I knew best, and that whatever I said was satisfactory to them. Thus, with the three boats still tied together, we made more or less fair wind and set the course for Mauritius. I pointed out to the men exactly what this would mean and that we should be on exceedingly short rations, even with the additional provisions secured from the mail bags. We would also be short of water, I said, and told them that in future I meant to issue only one dipper of water a day."

Mr. Dingle said that somewhere about 6 p.m. one of the men who was injured sighted something to the northward. The officer decided that it was the masts of a vessel standing towards them. He then brought the boats up into the wind and steered towards them. Later, they turned out to be the masts of an Australian warship.



INTERESTING TO GINGER: Lewis Milestone, director, shows Ginger Rogers some film clips from her new romantic comedy "Lucky Partners" in which her co-star is Ronald Colman. Now showing as Christmas fare at the Queen's and Alhambra Theatres.

LADY DILL PASSES

Lady Dill, wife of General Sir John Dill, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, has died in London after a long illness, says a Reuter despatch.

At 7 p.m. they were taken aboard.

An eye-witness on the warship which picked up the survivors said that on receipt of a raider warning, his ship proceeded to a position indicated in the Indian Ocean and found there an abandoned lifeboat bearing the name of the freighter Maimoa.

"We sank this by gunfire about 8 a.m. last Friday," he said, "and proceeded to answer a call which we had received en route to the spot, that the Port Brisbane was being shelled by an enemy vessel. At about 5.45 p.m. the lookout on the masthead sighted some sails on the horizon. As we approached, they proved to be three lifeboats containing survivors from the Port Brisbane. They were picked up by us and the lifeboats were sunk by gunfire."

The Port Brisbane lifeboats were lucky to have been seen. At first only the masts were sighted. Half an hour later, it would have been impossible to see them.

The only passenger on board the Port Brisbane was a Miss McShane, who had been on a holiday in Australia. Mr. Dingle said that he was certain that she had been picked up from one of the lifeboats by the raider, since a jumper was found in one of the boats. The full complement of the Port Brisbane was about 92 men.

Well-Known Ships

Both the Maimoa and Port Brisbane were particularly well known in the Australian trade, and had been operating between Australian ports and the United Kingdom for many years.

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They were of approximately the same tonnage, and each had a complement of about 70 officers and men.

The Maimoa was of 8,011 tons gross, and was built in 1920 by Palmers' Co., Ltd., Newcastle, England. She was owned by the Shaw, Savill and Albion Co., Ltd. She was registered at Southampton, was one of the oldest ships in the Shaw Savill fleet. Her master was Captain S. H. Cox, who was well known in shipping circles in Sydney.

The gross tonnage of the Port Brisbane was 8,739. She was built in 1923 by Workman, Clark, and Co., Ltd., of Belfast, Ireland. She was owned by the Port Line, Ltd.



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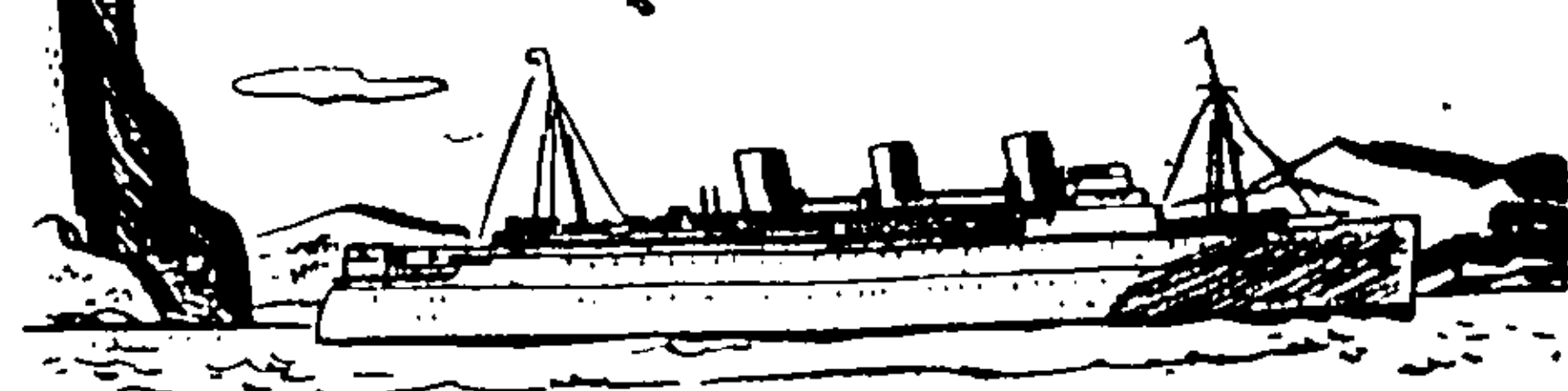
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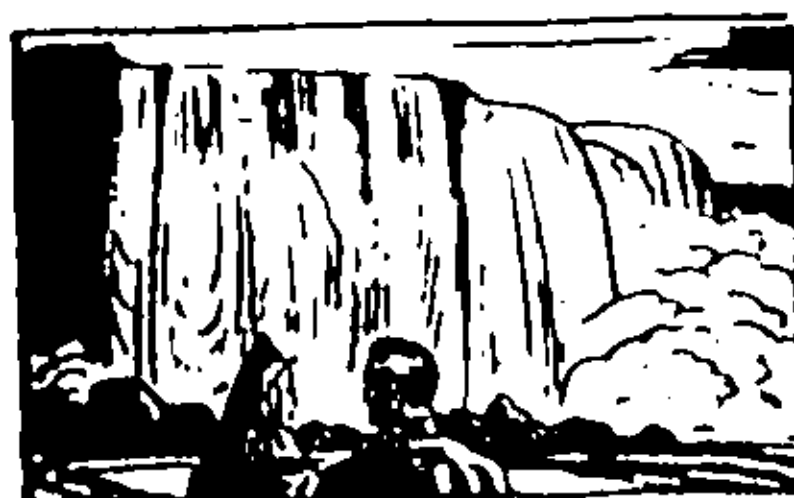


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BOMBAY & KARACHI via Singapore, Penang and Colombo Melbourne Maru 26th Dec.
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The Parcel Post Service to Canton has been resumed.

Small Packet Post to all countries is suspended.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

The General Post Office and Branch Post Offices will be open to-day as follows:—

General Post Office 8 a.m. to noon.
Kowloon Central P.O. 8 a.m. to noon.
Sheungwan Branch P.O. 8 to 10 a.m.
All other Branch Post Offices and Money Order Office will be entirely closed during the Holidays.

There will be one collection from the pillar boxes as on Sundays and one delivery of registered and ordinary correspondence at 11.30 a.m. to-day.

There will also be one delivery of ordinary correspondence at 11.00 a.m. from the Branch Post Office at Stanley, Taipei and Un Long.

INWARD MAILS

THURSDAY

U.S.A., Honolulu, Japan and Shanghai (San Francisco date, 6th December).
U.S.A., Honolulu and Manila (San Francisco date, 3rd December).

FRIDAY

Air Mail by "Pan-American Airways Direct Service"—San Francisco date, 17th December.
London and Straits
Java and Manila.

SATURDAY

Swatow

SUNDAY

Canton
Sandakan

FOR DATE & TIME

OUTWARD MAILS

THURSDAY

Air Mail by sea to Singapore to connect with the "British Overseas Airways." K.P.O. & G.P.O.

Reg. 11.30 a.m.
Ord. Noon.
Ceylon, India, Aden and Egypt. Noon.

FRIDAY

Sandakan 8.30 a.m.
Straits, Rangoon and Calcutta.
Parcels 5.00 p.m.
Letters 7.00 p.m.

Air Mail by Air to Rangoon to connect with the "British Overseas Airways." K.P.O. & G.P.O.

Reg. 4.00 p.m.
Ord. 4.30 p.m.

Shanghai, Japan, Honolulu, U.S.A., Canada, Central and South America and "United Kingdom via San Francisco (No parcels for Canada and United Kingdom). K.P.O.

Parcels 4.00 p.m.
Reg. 5.00 p.m.
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RADIO

12.15 p.m.—Short Service of Intercession.
12.30 p.m.—Compositions of Ivor Novello.
1.00 p.m.—Local Time Signal and Weather Report.
1.03 p.m.—Billy Mayerl at the Piano.
1.15 p.m.—Film Selections.
1.30 p.m.—Reuter and Rugby Press.
Weather Forecast and Announcements.
1.45 p.m.—Latest Dance Music.
2.15 p.m.—Close down.
5.45 p.m.—Indian Programme.
5.50 p.m.—Richard Crooks (Tenor) and the Boston Promenade Orchestra.
7.00 p.m.—London Relay—The News.
7.15 p.m.—London Relay—Questions of the Hour.
7.30 p.m.—Excerpts from Puccini's Operas.
8.00 p.m.—Local Time Signal, Weather Report and Announcements.
8.03 p.m.—Studio—Contest by The "Paradise" Islanders.
8.33 p.m.—Reginald Foort at the Organ.
8.45 p.m.—Studio—Local Newsletter.
9.00 p.m.—London Relay—The News & News Commentary.
9.30 p.m.—Studio—Special Xmas Variety Programme. Those taking part: Eve Gray, Elvys Yuen, G. S. Hugh-Jones, A. R. Colquhoun, R. St. John, T. A. Thompson, J. Graham, E. O'Neill, Shaw and H. L. O'Neil.
10.15 p.m.—Dance Music.
11.00 p.m.—Close down.



SAN FRANCISCO & LOS ANGELES via Honolulu.

Kamakura Maru Tuesday, 14th Jan.
Yawata Maru Tuesday, 28th Jan.

SEATTLE & VANCOUVER (Starts from Kobe)

Helan Maru Saturday, 25th Jan.

SOUTH AMERICA (WEST COAST) via Hilo &

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*Akagi Maru (starts from Kobe) Wednesday, 15th Jan.

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*Genoa Maru Sunday, 12th Jan.

KOBE & YOKOHAMA

Kamakura Maru Tuesday, 14th Jan.
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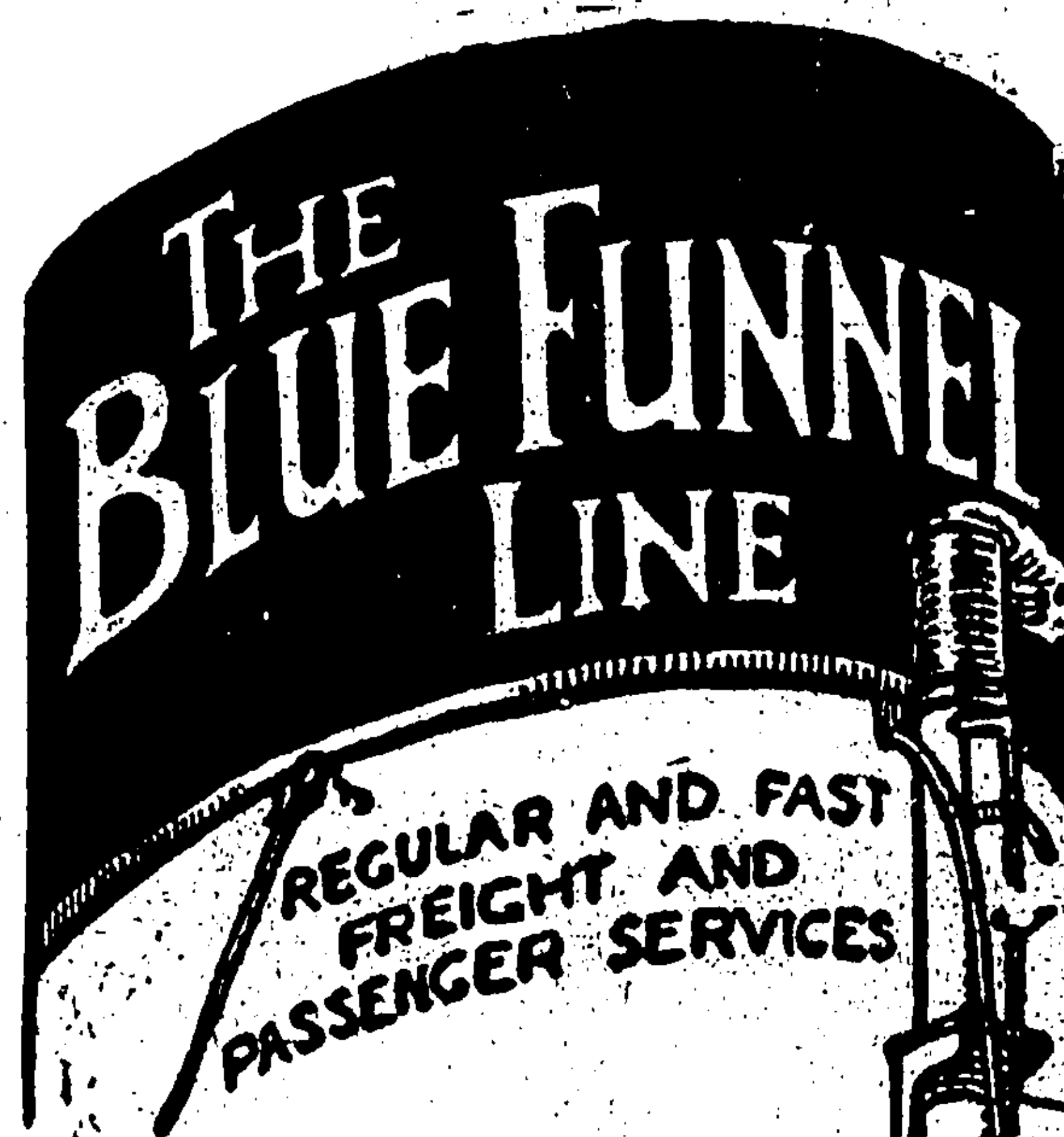
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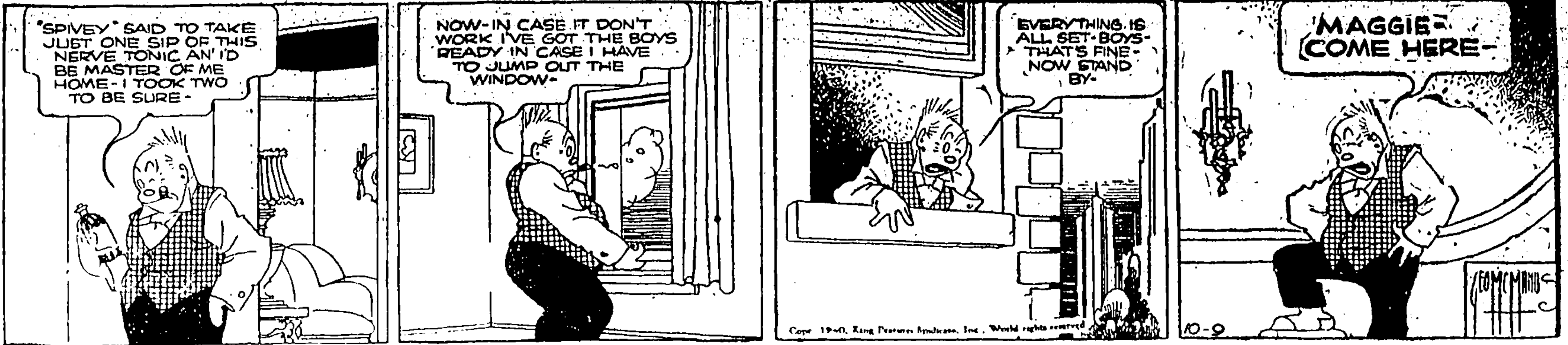
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BURIED
WIFE
SAVED HIM

Buried up to her neck in debris when a tenement building was hit in a night raid, a woman warden struggled free, ran to a kiosk to give the alarm, then returned to extricate her wounded husband.

She is Mrs. George Innes, who lives in a coast town in the West of Scotland, which had its most intense air raid of the war. Seven families were asleep in bed when the tenement was wrecked by a high explosive bomb.

Several of the tenants were trapped. A fourteen-year-old boy, Jack Barbour, and his father, John Barbour were killed. Jack's ten-year-old brother Nicol is in hospital and their mother is missing.

The body of another tenant, Mrs. Lindsay, was recovered. Mrs. Innes told a reporter:—"At the sound of gunfire I went out to the street on A.R.P. duty. "I was buried up to the shoulders in debris, but I wriggled clear and my first thought was to get in touch with the control centre or the police.

Doctors Give Morphia

"I rushed to the telephone across the street to call assistance, and then returned to the close, where my husband had been standing beside me when the bomb fell.

"He was buried in masonry and other debris, so I started trying to get him clear. He had head injuries. Mr. Donald Lindsay was trapped under piles of wreckage for more than two hours.

Two doctors gave morphia to some of the imprisoned people. One man, whose arm was caught in the wreckage, directed the rescue party with his free arm. In a small village in the Home Counties five people were killed instantaneously when a high explosive bomb completely wrecked a cottage.

The victims were Mrs. Ena Phillips, aged thirty-three, her two children, Gillian, aged two, and John David, aged seventeen months; Mr. Cyril Foyle, aged about thirty, a school-master evacuated from Croydon and his wife, Mrs. Foyle.

Baby's Escape

Mr. and Mrs. Foyle's baby, aged about eighteen months, was found alive on the top of the debris of the wrecked building.

German raiders over London were guilty of more vandalism, another church being severely damaged.

A doctor and a nurse, with shell splinters falling round them, worked with a torch to reach a woman trapped in the debris of her kitchen. After some hours she was reached and the doctor was able to give her an injection. Later wardens and rescue squads rescued the woman, who was taken to hospital in a serious condition.

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ONE - SIDED WEEK - END SOFTBALL FIXTURES

Chinese Baseballers Disappoint

Indians Register Splendid Win

By "Grandstand"

ONE-SIDED AFFAIRS featured the week-end softball programme, the Chinese Baseballers providing the most disappointing display, when the Indians inflicted a 12-2 trimming on them.

Kassa Nazarin, on the mound for the Indian Chiefs, allowed the Liumen only five scattered hits, which only netted them two runs, whilst, on the other hand, clutch hurler George White, pitching in the absence of regular Tufty Chinn, was nicked for six safeties in 2-1/3 innings which cost his side markers, for the Indians to slow the game away.

Den Cray, relieving White, only handed out three measly singles, allowing the Omarmen one tally and hitting them out for four innings.

Yessir! Sunday was a night for the Indians to howl!

Splurges Of Runs

Three splurges of runs, totalling 12 in the first three innings, paved the way for victory for the Indians, whilst the Liumen only replied once, in the second, on A. B. "Savage" Hassan's wild heave from right field, after fielding Cray's rousing double.

In the third, Nip Lum, drew a pass, and pulled a Ty Cobb stunt, by pilfering second and third and scoring on Henry Ruel's grounder. No more runs were scored by either side after the third inning. Hassan smacked out the longest hit of the fray with a triple, chasing in two Omarmen. R. A. "Bay" Abbas, connected safely three times in his four attempts.

Despite the return of Bill Woo to the Canadian Chinese they were unable to stop the Recreio Aces, who handed out a 13-5 lacing to the Canucks. Gerry Gosano, pitched for the victors and fanned four, but he issued one free ticket to first, whilst smoke-ball and Herbie Quon, tossing for the Maple Leafs, fanned three and walked four, being guilty of one wild pitch.

The Aces collected eight safeties off Quon, which included doubles by the Gosano brothers, Bertie, Lino and Zinho, and right-fielder Dicky Alves. Of the four blows yielded by Gerry Gosano, Bill Ing connected for a double and a triple to average a neat 1.000 with the stick, but the only circuit clout of the lit was banged in by Dicky Alves with none aboard. Canuck second-sacker Young Lee snared Bertie Gosano's line-drive to nail Zinho Gosano at second for the only double killing.

Cyclones Too Good

The Cyclones proved too good for the Filipinos and overwhelmed the Islanders by 8-1, hurler Pinky Pineda pitching a

four-hitter, for his fifth consecutive win.

Dave Bautista chalked up the only Filipino marker on two Cyclone wild heaves in the second. Pitcher Tatong Amper's triple was wasted when he was nailed at the counting-station when attempting to stretch it into a four-bagger. "Kelly" Silva-Netto, of the Cyclones accounted for a double and a triple in his three trips to garner batting honours.

Friendly Match

In a friendly staged at Caroline Hill, the St. Joseph's team humbled a Tulsa nine by 14-7, in a match high-lighted by George "Strawberry" Souza's return to form by batting safely five in five, including two round-trippers.

"Ozo" Ozorio also accounted for four in five.

Second string Manson-Leonard battery for the Saints, had the Tulsamen baffled, whereas the Collegians hit the Tulsamen at ease. Mentor "Coppo" Omar added to the bitterness of the defeat, by rapping out a single over second for the Saints.

RAMBLERETTES EXTEND THE CANUCKETTES

By "Grandstand"

AS EXPECTED the Green-shirted Wahos easily accounted for the weak Chung Lassies, who came out on the short end of a 16-2 score.

All the Wahoo reserves were thrown into the fray, including Billy Covack at second and Coco holding the hot-corner, the latter bringing down a spectacular catch.

Lisa "Who says I can't do it" Anderson brought in the only circuit clout, whilst Jackie Anderson was good for a double and a triple in her three times up. Bunny Abbas also singled twice.

Irene Lee and Nellie Lee were the only ones in the Chung Hwa line-up to connect, for a single a piece.

Therese Noronha on the slab for the Owls, fanned three and walked none, whilst Ella Chinn whiffed Billy Covack and Priscilla Pires.

Show Claws!

After being tied for three innings, the Wildcats scratched their way out and enjoyed a 16-8 victory over the Cardinals. "Doc" Molthen's strategy in placing his best players in the outfield at the sacrifice of a weak infield, proved successful at first, but as soon as the Untamed Felines got wise, they cracked the Redbird infield wide open, Betty Clarke booting no less than three in the short-stop position.

Pat Jorge and Betty Fitzgerald, in the left and right gardens, respectively, gave good fielding displays, clamping down many difficult catches.

Efegino Babida on the slab for the Redbirds, fanned four, but walked three, whilst Thelma Collico for the Wildcats also whiffed four, but passed none. Thelma Collico also banged in the only homer, while Mary Mar and Thelma da Mota were good for a triple apiece.

Ramblerettes Do Well

Contrary to expectations, the Ramblerettes gave the Canuckettes a good run for their money, being aided out by 18-15. Mary Ng, on the mound for the

LEAGUE TABLE TO DATE

Senior League

	Won	Lost	Pctg.
St. Joseph's	4	1	.857
Hong Kong Baseballers	3	2	.714
Recreio Aces	4	2	.667
Cyclones	5	3	.625
Indians	4	3	.571
Chinese Baseballers	3	3	.500
Filipinos	1	6	.143
Canadian Chinese	0	8	.000

Junior League

	Won	Lost	Pctg.
Chung Hwa	5	0	1.000
V.R.C.	4	1	.800
Recreio Bees	5	2	.714
Cosmos	3	2	.600
Liga Portuguesa	3	2	.600
Royal Scots	3	2	.600
South China	2	2	.500
Central British	1	6	.143
8th R.A.	1	6	.143
Royal Engineers	0	4	.000

Ladies League

	Won	Lost	Pctg.
Canadian Chinese	7	0	1.000
Wildcats	6	1	.857
Wahos	6	2	.750
Panthers	4	3	.571
Cardinals	4	4	.500
Ramblerettes	2	6	.250
Little Flowers	1	6	.143
Chung Hwa	0	8	.000

Inter-Hong League

	Won	Lost	Pctg.
Hong Kong Bankers	3	0	1.000
Chartered Bank	1	0	1.000
Lacas	2	1	.667
Shell Oilers	2	1	.667
Texaco	0	1	.000
Greenspots	0	2	.000
Cables	0	3	.000

BROWN'S SUPERB PITCHING

By "Grandstand"

Featured by the superb hurling of Jock "Fog-em-over" Brown, the Hong Kong Bankers overwhelmed the Shell Oilers by 6-2, to take the lead in the Inter-Hong League standing.

The Wayfoong squad started with Gerry Gosano on the mound. He conceded two blows for the Shellists to tally twice. In the second stanza, Brown took over mound duties, and shut-out the Shellsters for the rest of the game, at one time retiring the side in one, two, three order via the strike-out route.

Although Brown fanned no less than seven bewildered Oilers, he was nicked for seven scattered blows. Bimby Ablong, on the slab for the Shells, passed one and whiffed two, and yielded 11 safeties.

The Bankers played heads up ball all the way through, and would have had an errorless game credited to them, were it not for Michael "Pork-chop" Souza's miff of Buster Poon's foul fly.

Shells Threaten

The Shells threatened in the fifth, when the sacks were soused on three successive bunts, with one away, but the side was retired without any gain by a double killing, when short-stop Rozario picked Roy "Do-or-die" Danenberg's line-drive out of the air, and nailed Poon at third.

In the last inning, another chance presented itself, with ducks in the pond, but Bimby Ablong flied out to end the rally.

Doubles were collected by Gerry Gosano, J. A. Spares, M. Xavier, Rocke "Mickey-Mouse" Silva, and Kitchell.

Nat "Flat-tyre" Spence, in the right garden for the Oilers, put up a good fielding display, hauling down everything that was hoisted his way, but was rather weak with the hickory, being fanned twice in three turns. Wabby Wahab, shared a similar fate. Nine Bankers died on the sacks, whilst six Oilers were left stranded.

Cables suffered their third consecutive defeat, when they were downed by the strong Lacas combination.

LORD ROSEBERY AND RACING

Pointing out that hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling of British racing thoroughbred stock had been exported to North and South America, South Africa, India, Australia and elsewhere, Lord Rosebery, one of the leading race horse owners in Britain, speaking at the annual meeting of the Thoroughbred Breeders Association at Newmarket urged the importance of continuing racing in war-time and said that the export trade was always of the greatest value to breeders and the Government's policy was to encourage export trades.

Lord Rosebery urged breeders to continue as long as possible and deprecated the selling of well-bred yearlings for five or ten guineas for the purpose of being slaughtered to feed greyhounds which are still allowed to race on the track.—Reuter.

HOLIDAY CRICKET

Quite a number of cricket matches will be played to-day, there being at least three.

Most serious will be the first of the Club-Wanderers series, the final match being on New Year's Day.

Intra-Club matches will also be played at Kowloon Cricket Club and Craigflower Cricket Club, the latter being followed by an annual tea-dance.

V.R.C. OUTHIT S. CHINA

By "Grandstand"

Out-hitting their opponents, V.R.C. downed the South China nine by 8-4 to take second place to the undefeated Chung Hwa squad in the Junior League standing.

Straight from the Bankers-Shell clash, in which he hurled for six innings, Jock Brown toed the rubber for the Victorians and was well backed by his teammates, who only committed five bungles. Brown passed one but fanned none, while Bill Quon, on the hillock for South China, fanned two and walked two.

Bimby Ablong, opening the session for the Vics, drew a pass, and scored on Roy Maxwell's deep sacrifice to left to break the ice in the initial frame. In the Nam Hwa half, Willie Kwan Wing-tim, scratched a single and pilfered second, but was left on the bag as the side was retired.

V.R.C. added another tally in the second on Nelson Ma's fumble of Alec Azeo's grounder and Bill Yum's wild heave to third. A single and a bobble enabled South China to add one more in their turn with the bat. Centre-fielder Cecil Quinn's two-bagger, which he stretched into a four-master, in the third when left-fielder David Lo was handcuffed, scored two ahead, which sewed up the game for the V.R.C.

Blank Fourth

In the fourth, both sides were blanked, but in the next frame each side chalked up another marker. Two errors and a single narrowed the margin by two runs for South China, but the Vics replied by piling up two more in their home half.

In their last turn at bat, Smally Pang singled, but eagle-eyed umpire Fittinghoff called him out for running before the pitch. Tommy Young grounded out, whilst Bill flied out to end the fracas.

TO-DAY'S MATCH

By "Referee"

England should have little difficulty against Portugal in the Semi-Final of the "Sunday Herald" International Charity Cup competition at Kowloon this afternoon at 3.30 p.m.

England have chosen a strong and well-balanced side, and all the players have figured in representative games this season.

Portugal's line-up will be decided on the ground but with the material at their disposal are not expected to extend England to any great extent.

U. B. Souza, one of the goal-keepers, was injured in a recent hockey game, and the only other goal-keeper left is V. Margues who has not played in that position for some time.

A. V. Gosano and Alves are the probable backs, while the intermediate-line will be composed of Pereira, Fernandes and Maxwell.

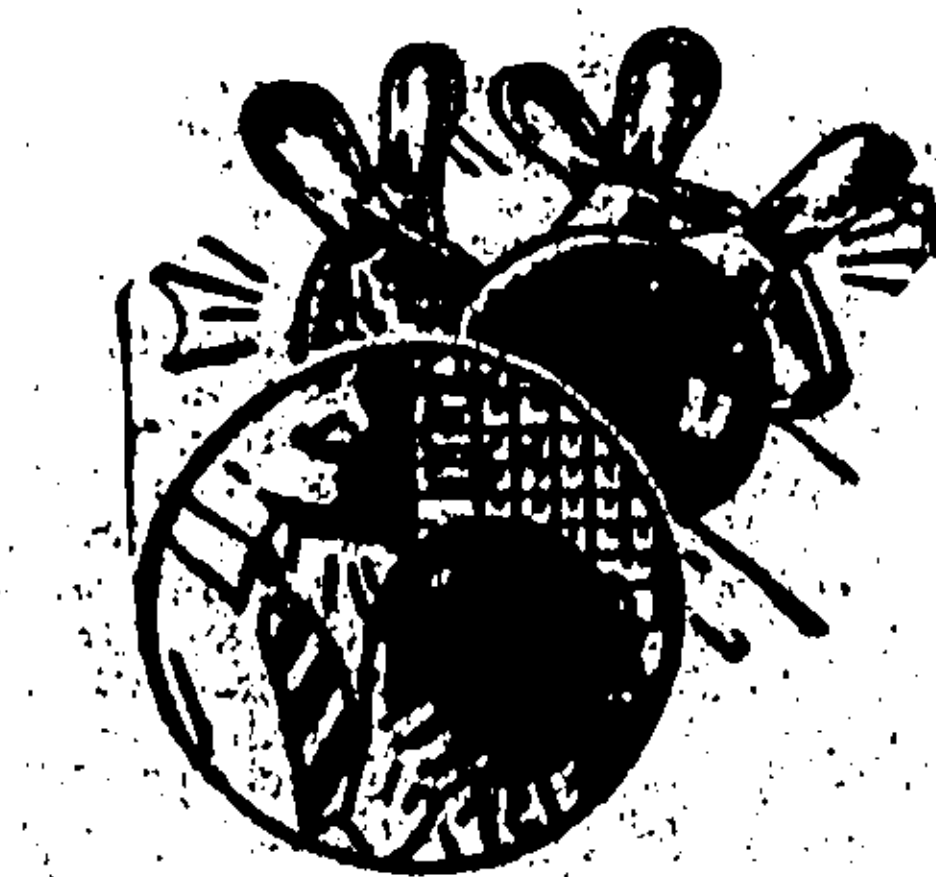
Portugal have no wingers of any real use, and these positions will be filled from Alves, Campos, Rocha and Cruz.

The inside-forward problem is easily solved by Gones. B. Gosano and Santos.

ENGALAND—Robinson (Navy); Roughley (Navy) and Freshwater (Middlesex); Pope (Police), Bright (Middlesex) (Capt.) and Wilkinson (Middlesex); Coomer (Middlesex), Le Page (Navy), Hendy (Navy), Fox (Engineers) and Bickford (Club).

RESERVE—Moxham (Engineers), Brits (Navy), Parker (Middlesex), Strang (Club), Haywell (Navy), Thomas (Middlesex), Saw (Middlesex), Barber (Navy), Fowler (Club) and Marable (Middlesex).

PORTUGAL (to be chosen from the following)—D. Dénice (St. Joseph's), A. V. Gosano (Kwong Wah), B. T. Gosano (Kowloon), C. F. Remedios (Kwong Wah), L. A. Ferreira (Kowloon), D. D'Aguiar (International), V. Marques (International), A. Rocha (International), H. Campos (International), G. Gosano (International), A. Maxwell (Kowloon), C. Santos (St. Joseph's), J. Gomes (St. Joseph's), D. Alves (St. Joseph's), A. Alves (St. Joseph's) and G. Fernandes (St. Joseph's).



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SCOTLAND BEAT CHINA IN SECOND HALF RALLY

Howlett, Hossack & Ferrier Play Big Part In Victory

Spectacular Finish To Charity Match

By "Referee"

STAGING A MARVELLOUS recovery in the second half, Scotland caused one of the greatest surprises in recent years when they beat China by 6 goals to 5 in the semi-final of the "Sunday Herald" International Charity Cup competition at Boundary Street yesterday after being led by 4 goals to 1 at the interval.

Scotland fielded a Royal Scots team with two exceptions in Howlett and Ferrier, while China were at full strength with the exception of Cheung Wing-choy, whose place was taken by Lau Hin-hon.

Scotland's unexpected but nevertheless deserved victory proved that a combined Chinese team is not invincible if the proper tactics are used. None of the six goals scored by Scotland could be described as good efforts but all came from good movements and the continual worrying of the goal-keeper.

This is the first time for a long time that a Combined Chinese defence has conceded six goals in any game.

Chinese Score Early

Chinese started off confidently and within a few minutes had scored through Hau Ching-to, and the same player placed them further ahead with another good effort. It seemed that China would overwhelm Scotland but Howlett reduced the lead. Before the interval Fung and Lai had given their side a score of four goals.

Until then the Chinese were playing good football. Fung King-cheong was in great form and Lee Wai-tong was prominent with neat passes and both wingers were making the best use of the ball, but in the second interval a great change came over Scotland and they played inspired soccer, every man showing a marked improvement, particularly the wingers, who in the first half were weak in their centring and slow in their movements.

Scotland did not give the Chinese any time to settle down and Fraser and Naysmith played heroically at back, tackling hard and fast, and clearing well under pressure. Bankier in goal brought off several good saves and was ever on the alert.

Strong Halves

Falconer, Munro and Clarke formed a good half-back line in the second half and though Chung Yung-sum was less marked than he should have been, neither Hau Ching-to nor Fung King-cheong had much opportunity to show up.

While the greatest credit must go to Howlett for netting five of the six goals for his side, it must also be said that he played a brainy game, sent the ball well out to the wingers and was always in position to receive a centre.

Hossack played the best game he has done for a long time. A tireless worker he did not spare himself and with Garrie on the right-wing played havoc with the Chinese defence, where Ng King-cheong was all at sea against the fast movements.

Not to be denied, Ferrier at inside-left lent his weight and also needed continual watching. His improved display in the second half had its effect on Marshall

who was very much more in the picture with his centring.

Chinese were the better team in the first half but in the second half could not cope with the fast movements and tackling of Scotland.

Scots' Worrying Defence

The Scotland defenders took a man, worried him and saw that he did not have time to pass the ball at leisure. The result was that the Chinese forwards were kept at bay for a considerable time and the splendid goal-

keeping of Bankier, who would not be beaten by stray shots or from distance saved Scotland.

Ng Kee-cheong and Hsu King-sing were outplayed, Soong Ling-sing was the only half who held his own but the additional work thrown on him was too much.

Neither Hau Yung-sang and Tsang Chung-wan were reliable under pressure, while Lau Hin-hon was very shaky at times.

Hau Ching-to (2), Fung King-cheong and Lai Shui-wing scored for Chinese in the first half and Howlett netted for Scotland.

Scotland quickly reduced the lead to 4-3 in the second half

through Howlett and Hossack. The latter missed a penalty but Howlett placed Scotland on level terms and, following a centre from Garrie, placed Scotland in the lead for the first time. Lee Wai-tong scored for China with a good shot but just before time Howlett scored the winning goal.

CHINA—Lau Hin-hon; Tsang Chung-wan, Hau Yung-sang; Soong Ling-sing, Hsu King-sing, Ng Kee-cheong; Chung Yung-sum, Fung King-cheong, Lee Wai-tong (Capt.), Lai Shui-wing and Hau Ching-to.

SCOTLAND—Bankier; Naysmith, Fraser; Munro, Falconer, Clark; Garrie, Ferrier, Hossack, Howlett and Marshall.

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RUGBY LEAGUE MATCHES

The following were the results of Rugby League matches played on Christmas Day—

Bradford	27	Bramley	2
Castleford	4	Wakefield	11
Dewsbury	8	Featherstone	15
Huddersfield	8	Halifax	12
Hull	13	Hunslet	11
Leeds	28	Barley	5
Liverpool	5	Warrington	10
Wigan	12	Salford	0
York	29	Keighley	13

—Reuter.

PLAYER'S
CLIPPER
CIGARETTES

THAILAND'S DEMANDS

Willing To Negotiate With Vichy Government Mekong River Territory At Issue

WARM APPRECIATION of Britain's friendship and watchful interest in Japan's new order in East Asia were expressed by the Thailand Prime Minister, Luang Bipul Songgram, in an interview with Reuter's correspondent in Bangkok in which the Prime Minister voiced Thailand's readiness to negotiate with France on the Indo-China border dispute.

Wearing a military uniform the Premier received Reuter's representative in the red-and-gold drawing room of his heavily guarded palace. On a table at his elbow stood an elegantly framed photograph of King George in Admiral's uniform, and also His Majesty's warrant appointing him Knight Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

Luang Bipul Songgram cordially affirmed that Thailand's relations with Britain were of an extremely smooth character, mentioning as instance of this the recent speedy amicable settlement of a boundary dispute.

From this he drew the assumption that Britain sympathised with Thai claims against Indo-China.

The Premier said Thailand was prepared to shake hands with France to-morrow and forget the 75-year-old feud connected with territory of 500,000 square miles gradually annexed by France and now called Indo-China on condition that two small bits of thinly populated territory this side of the Mekong River were

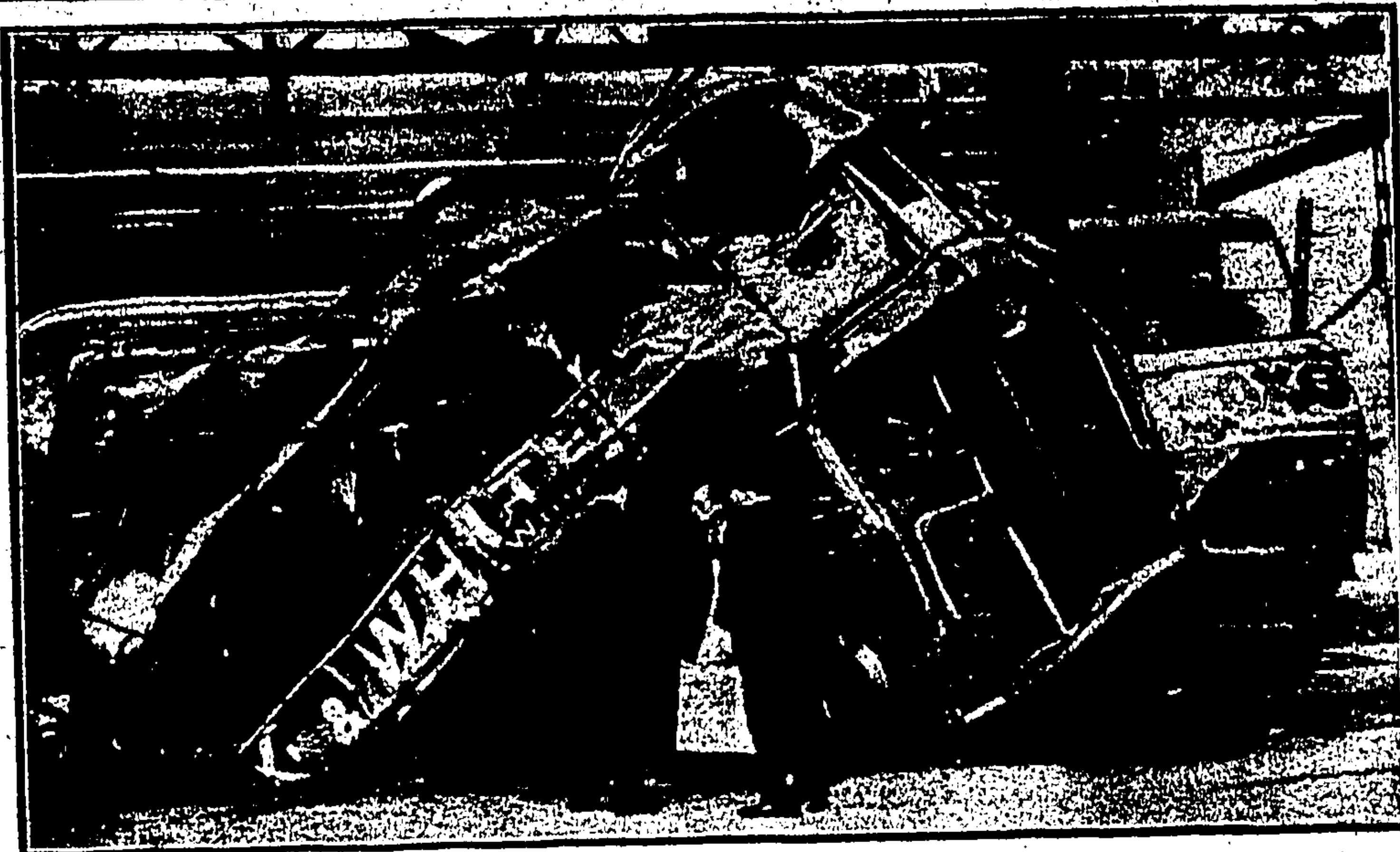
restored, thus giving Thailand a natural frontier.

Interest In "New Order"

Incidentally, he mentioned that on the eve of the outbreak of war France sought a military pact with Thailand.

This the latter declined to enter into, desiring to maintain her neutrality.

The Premier added that Thailand was interested in Japan's new order in East Asia and would study it carefully as she had trade and other relations with Japan but her first concern would always remain the maintenance of independent existence.—Reuter.



A bomb during a recent night raid scored a direct hit on a bus and badly damaged two others. The bus which received the direct hit was blown across the road into a shop window and the casualties were heavy. Photo shows the remnants of the bus which received the direct hit. (Copyright, Fox).

SUDDEN DEATH OF NORMAN LEE

In the midst of rejoicing in the early hours of Christmas morning came the sad news—a great shock to sporting circles—of the sudden death of Mr. Norman Lee, former Colony swimming champion, in the Kowloon Hospital.

The late Mr. Lee was born in Birkenhead, England, 21 years ago, and came to Hong Kong at an early age. He studied at both the Diocesan Boys' School and the Queen's College.

He leaves six brothers and a sister to mourn his death. Though a keen sportsman he confined himself to swimming. In 1938, the year following his capture of the local championship titles, he toured the South Seas in a very successful effort to raise money for the China War Relief Fund, and on that tour made a host of friends in Java, the Philippines and Singapore.

In 1939 he repeated this visit, during which he contracted the fever which struck him with such suddenness yesterday.

The funeral was held at the Protestant Cemetery yesterday at 5 p.m. The Very Rev. Dean Wilson officiated.

The family mourners were his sister, Mrs. B. C. Randall, his brothers, Frank, Tinker and Robbie, and Mr. Randall, brother-in-law. Other brothers absent from the Colony are Capt. W. Lee, Stanley and George.

Owing to the suddenness of his death only a few of his many friends could be present; floral tributes were sent by Ada and Bennie, Will and May, Frank and Nellie, Robbie and Nora, Stanley and Ethel, Tinker and George, Eric, Gordon and Honour, Connie, Molly and Eddie, Vivienne and Mabel, Mr. Shi Yu-man, Mr. S. M. Churn and family, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Anderson and family, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Maxwell and family, Mr. and Mrs. Field, the Committee and Members of the Victoria Recreation Club.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The relatives of the late Mr. Norman Lee wish to thank their friends for the messages of sympathy and floral tributes in their recent bereavement.

STOP PRESS

"Reynolds News" reported that workers in Britain's largest arms works recently refused to handle an order for Japan upon seeing the blueprint marked "Subject to Japanese Army Inspection."

Immediately a deputation was sent to protest to the management saying that the workers were willing to sacrifice holidays and toil 10½-hour shifts for work of national importance but were not willing to work for a member of the Axis. The company's secretary replied that the work was of national importance since the country needed the foreign currency which Japan would pay for military equipment, for which the British Government had granted an export licence.

The workers refused to accept the explanation and wrote a letter of protest to the Labour Minister, Mr. Ernest Bevin.—Central News.

(SPECIAL TO "CHINA MAIL")

British artillery and infantry are engaged in a desperate fight against Italian air bombers and land forces as scores of Fascist planes attempt to rescue the beleaguered defenders of Bardia.

In the face of terrific air pounding British mechanised forces pushed forward in preparation for a decisive blow against the Libyan port.—International News Service.

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